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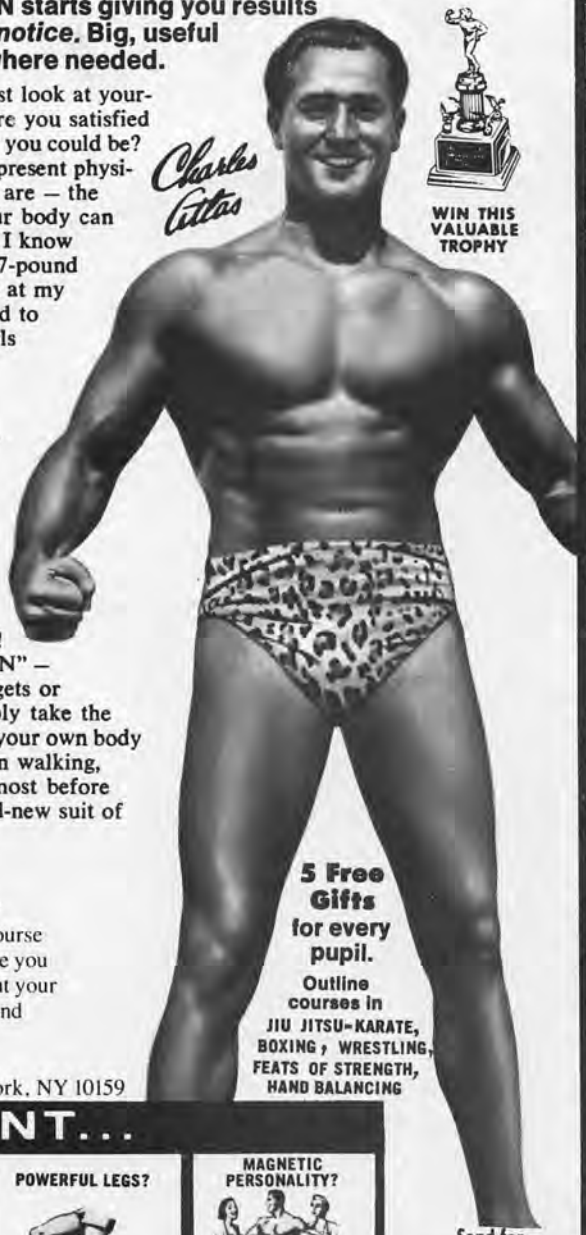

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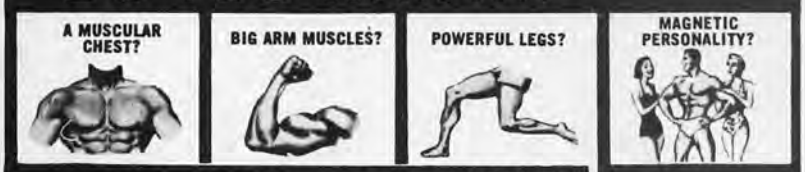

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MAILBAG

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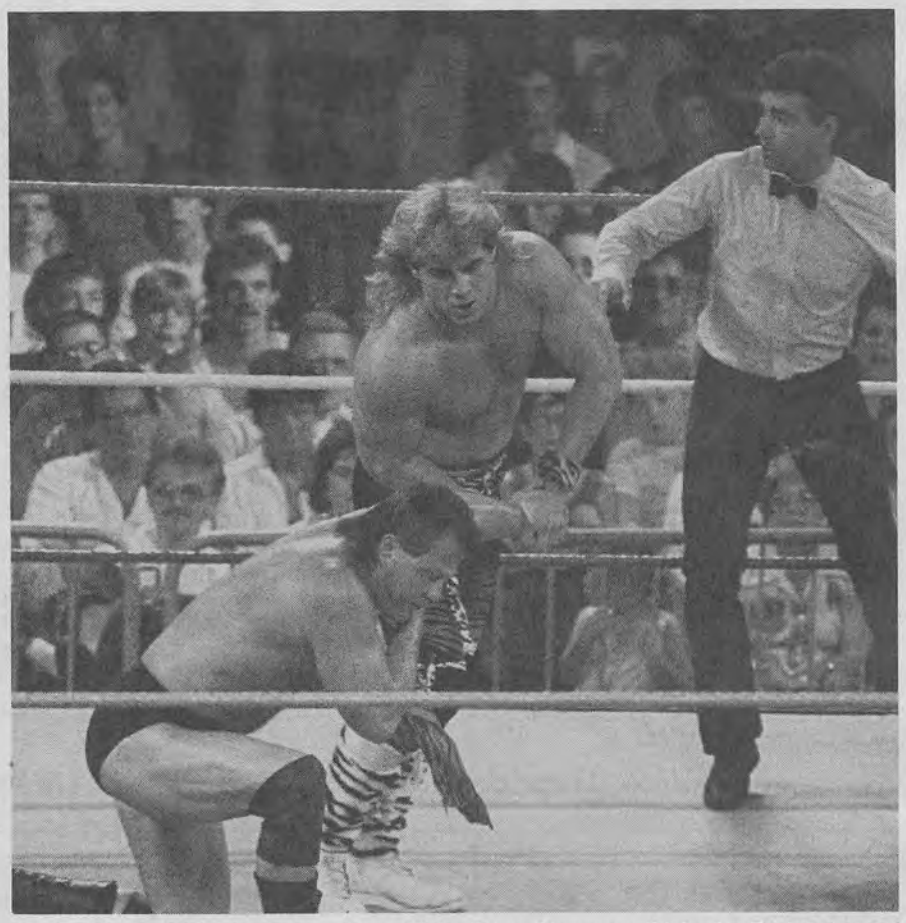
BIG WHERE IT COUNTS

I'm writing in response to an article in your October 1988 issue ("Are The Midnight Rockers Too Small For The WWF?"). The Rockers may be small, but, more than anyone, they've got speed, heart, and the desire to win. Those are the qualities that will enable them to rise to the top in "the land of the giants." I think that moving to the WWF was the best move of their careers.



Rocker Shawn Michaels armbars Terry Gibbs. Sonya Vangosen thinks the Rockers' speed, heart, and desire will more than make up for their lack of size.

Even during the times when Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels were the AWA champions, no magazine ever did a cover story on them. They've been in the WWF only a few months, and already they're on a cover! In my opinion, that's definitely a step in the right direction.

SONYA VANGOSEN
Berkeley Springs, WV

DEAR VINCE

This is just a quick note to Vince McMahon: I would like to know, Vince, how you can televise men being nearly decapitated by Demolition outside the ring, how you can show seven-time NWA World champion Harley Race almost kill himself, how you can show Adrian Adonis in a dress—yet not show the segment where Brutus Beefcake's head was ripped open with Ron Bass' spur!

Maybe you just thought it was too gruesome. Well, it wasn't half as gruesome as watching Andre the Giant wrestle, or watching Billy Graham get ripped apart. Maybe if it had been *Bass* being cut up, or if your favorite Beefcake didn't make so much for your federation, you would have aired the segment . . . uncensored!

CHRIS SALINAS
Milwaukee

GET REAL

I find it quite amusing to read letters from fans of The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Midnight Rockers. All they do is argue about who the *real* rock 'n' wrestling team is. Well, they can argue all they want, but *neither*

team is the original. I know I'll upset some fans by saying this, but whether these teeny-boppers want to admit it, the *original* rock 'n' wrestling team is The Fabulous Freebirds.

The 'Birds were using an entrance theme, Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Freebird," while the Rockers and the Express were still in grade school. The Freebirds were the first to record their own single and LP long before Rick Morton's laughable attempt at singing. They also have released two music videos displaying their rock *and* wrestling skills.

While Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts may not be together right now, they are still The Freebirds to me, and I know they will regroup shortly to rid the world of the snot-nosed punks who think they're big-time rockers. Hell, my main man "Bamm Bamm" Gordy could beat up these four geeks at the same time.

So remember, The Freebirds are the *originals.* They can be imitated, but not duplicated. Freebird fantasia will reign forever!

ANDY MILLER
Ansted, WV

GETTING HIS KICKS

I've been a knowledgeable wrestling fan for a few years now. I have watched all the different federations and have taken notice of some of the best aerial wrestlers in the sport today. The aerial game is an art form, and many of today's stars have perfected its difficult skills. The one move that made wrestling what it is today is the dropkick. Among many stars, however, the dropkick is a forgotten maneuver. It should not be forgotten.

(Continued on page 42)

Road Warrior Hawk dropkicks Ivan Koloff. In Eric Cooper's opinion, Hawk has one of the best dropkicks in the sport, a bit surprising because he's so big.

The Fabulous Freebirds perform their "Badstreet U.S.A." video. Andy Miller reminds everyone that The Freebirds are the original "rock 'n' wrestling" team.

THE TATTLER

PHILADELPHIA, PA: When The Midnight Express—Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane—defeated Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson for the NWA World tag team championship September 10 at the Phildelphia Civic Center, it was a stunning victory for a host of reasons.

Not only did Lane and Eaton score the biggest win of their careers, but the loss of the World title was enough to send Anderson and Blanchard packing. The now-former members of The Four Horsemen were scheduled to make their WWF debut at a television taping October 5 in Toledo, Ohio.

Given the controversy surrounding this match, the disputed finish seems almost appropriate. Blanchard and Eaton were the legal men in the ring, but Anderson and Lane ran in, prompting a melee among all four participants. Eaton bodyslammed Anderson and followed up with a crushing legdrop and a bodypress.

Meanwhile, Blanchard had slingshot-suplexed Lane and covered him for the pin at the same time Eaton was covering Anderson. Referee Tommy Young made the three-count, and shocked everyone by awarding the belts to the Express.

"It was no shock to *me* at all," boasted a euphoric Jim Cornette, the manager of the Express. "I said all along that we would beat those miserable cowards, and now we've proven that I always back up what I say. This is the greatest day in the history of the NWA! We're the first double titleholders in the history of this federation!"

THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

Cornette soon learned, however, that holding both the World title and the U.S. tag team championship is not allowed by NWA bylaws. Forced to choose between the titles, the Express relinquished their U.S. title, which will be put up for grabs in an upcoming tournament.

"Those NWA officials don't want

(Continued on page 62)

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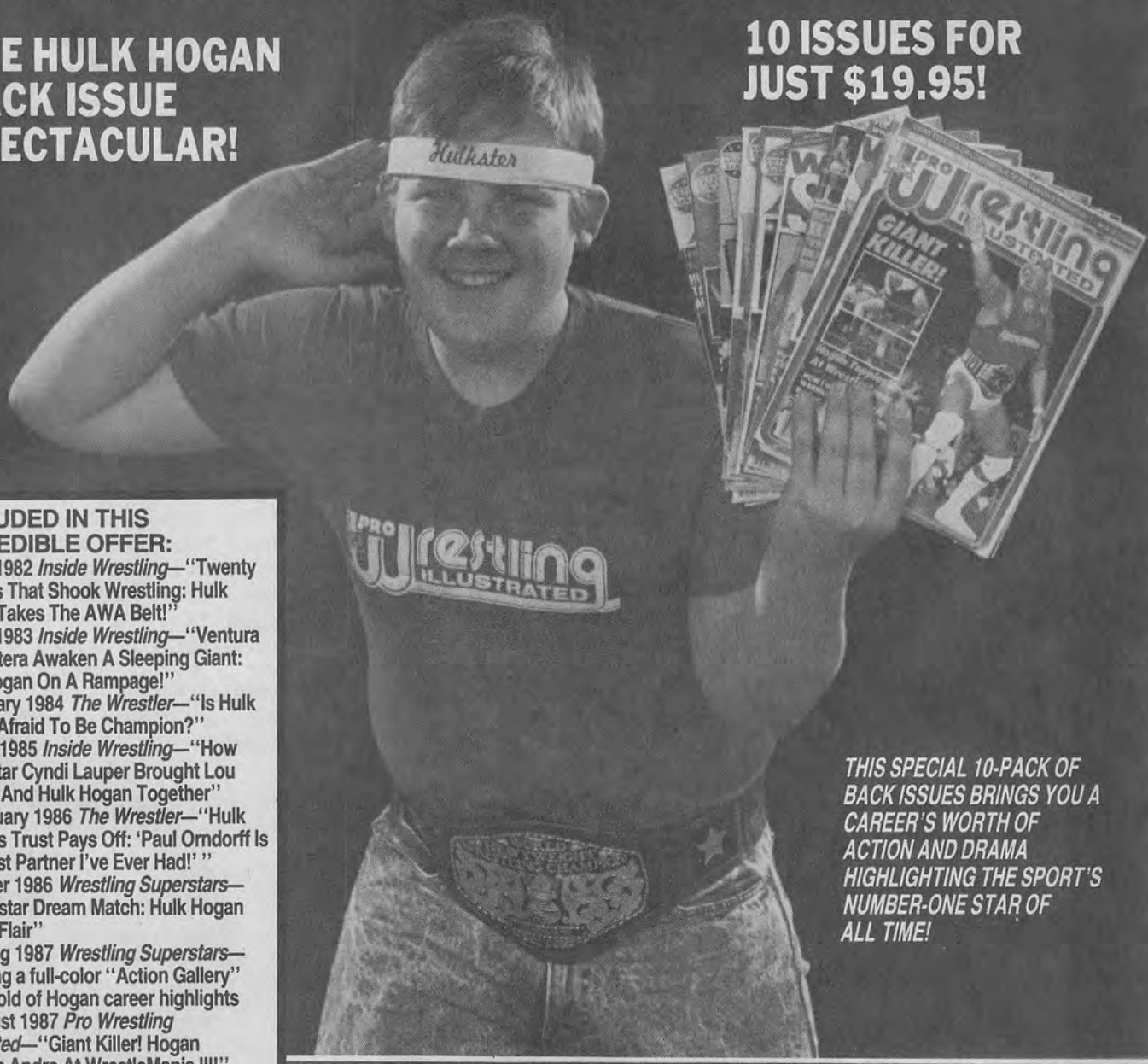

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TOP WRESTLE
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ASK THE STARS
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THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"If your most hated enemy changed his ways, would you befriend him?"

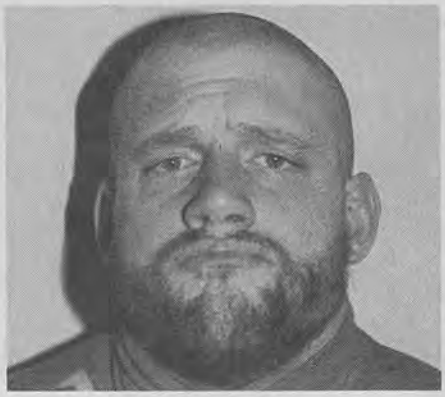
Submitted by: Carlie Gill Anchorage, AK

LEX LUGER

"That's a tough question. I was burned so bad by Barry Windham that I *still* have to put aloe on my skin! I used to think 'forgive and forget,' you know. Hell, I'd be careful before I'd accept *anyone* into my confidence. With Barry, though, I'd have to try, seeing as how he took me back after I rejected The Four Horsemen. Maybe Barry can, too."

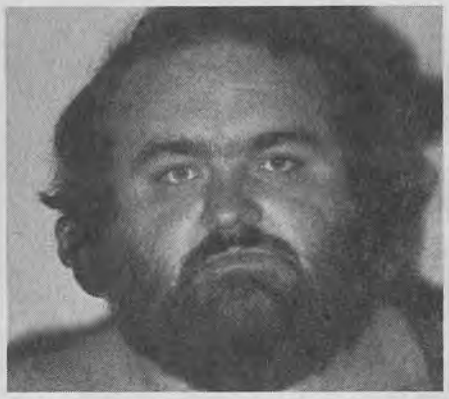
KERRY VON ERICH

"What? Befriend Iceman Parsons or Kamala? These men have taken blood vows to kill me. How could I possibly befriend them? There's no way I can ever let my guard down for a minute around these evil savages. If one of them came forward with a hand of friendship, I'd slap it. When Michael Hayes came to me it was different. I trusted him because he had rejected his past. That's the key."



SOLDAT USTINOV

"Jerry Lawler? I don't think that I could make, how you say, friends with that cow of a man. I am a wrestler in the great Soviet tradition of bravery and courage. He is a pig-dog coward, and I spit on his country, I spit on his fancy house, and I spit on his wife. In fact, I would like to spit on everything he touches."



MAKHAN SINGH

"Absolutely. I've got nothing to fear, and if an enemy of mine finally begins to see the light, I'm willing to forgive and forget. Besides, people don't stay enemies with me for too long. Usually they decide that it's easier to join me than to fight me. Right now I'm feuding with an old friend, Steve DiSalvo. Once I brutalize him for a while, he'll come back to me. You wait and see."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH

ROAD WARRIOR HAWK

"Right now our biggest enemies are The Four Horsemen, that elite group of disgusting wimp slimeballs. The Road Warriors don't play favorites. If an enemy turns good or a friend goes bad, nothing changes for me and Animal. We're the only people we care about. Guys like the Horsemen only care about themselves, too, so why should I accept an offer of friendship? I'm not stupid."

JIMMY GARVIN

"People like Kevin Sullivan are not just enemies, they're psychopaths. It's not just a matter of allowing somebody to amend a mistake. Guys like Sullivan are actually brain damaged. They *can't* act civilized. Sullivan has terrorized Precious not for any personal gain, but because he has a deranged mind. He'll never be good, so the answer to your question is easy: No way!"

PHIL HICKERSON

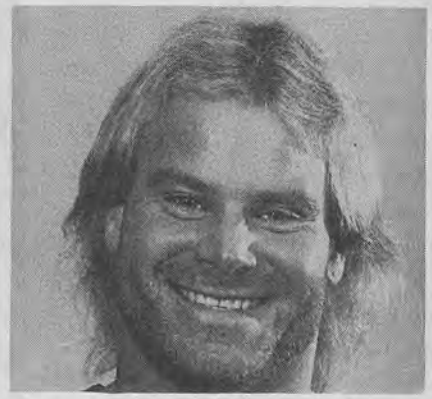
"Enemies? What enemies? The only enemies I have are diet foods. Jeez, I *hate* that. You know, things like fake ice cream and light mayonnaise. Vegetables, too. Why can't I just eat the foods I want? The only enemy I have is dieticians and health experts. 'Experts, shmexperts' is what I always say. Hey, pass those mashed potatoes over here."

TOM PRICHARD

"Some enemies can't be forgiven. In the past, I've let bygones be bygones with guys, but I will never, I mean *never*, forget what Dirty White Boy Tony Anthony has done to me. He dragged me across an arena by the neck, he threatened my valet, Bambi, and he even had his valet fake being beaten so that I'd let my guard down. And I fell for it. Befriend Anthony? Never!"

BRICKHOUSE BROWN

"I know this will sound phony, but I know I would make amends with my enemy. I say this because that's the position I'm in now. Turning away from Robert Fuller and his friends was a big move in my career. I hope my former enemies will accept me back and realize that I made a mistake ever wrestling with the Stud Stable in the first place."



STAN LANE

"Why would I want to do that? I'd have no one to wrestle! *Everybody* is my enemy. I don't consider anybody a friend, except Bobby [Eaton] and Jim [Cornette]. I don't want to start befriending my enemies, because in this biz, the only person you can ever trust is yourself and your partner—and sometimes not even him! When you're a tag team champion, *everybody's* gunning for you." □

The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans. Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!

THE QUESTION:
"What was your impression of SummerSlam 88?"

THE ANSWERS:
Stan Miller, Stanford, CT: "The only part I liked was Ultimate Warrior's 31-second destruction of The Honky Tonk Man. The way Warrior rushed to the ring, the way he brutalized the helpless Honky Tonk, was an inspiration to all true wrestling fans. He had the intensity and honest wrestling emotion that is so rarely seen in the WWF. The rest of the show was rather dull, as if none of the wrestlers cared. I know I didn't."

Seymour Kamp, Bellingham, WA: "I thought the entire show was fabulous! The Megapowers vs. Megabucks main event kept me spellbound. Hulk Hogan looked better than ever. The best part for me was the important role Elizabeth played. The WWF has long been dominated by men like Bobby Heenan and Jimmy Hart, managers who are masters at interfering at the right time. But the image of Elizabeth beating these men at their own game will stay with me forever."

Harry Corning, Cranford, NJ: "Well, let me tell you. From a technical standpoint, the entire production failed to meet my expectations. When I say that, I mean that my enjoyment was greatly diminished by the non-wrestling aspects of the broadcast. Usually, the WWF highlights animal acts, zoo trainers, and circus sideshows. This pay-per-view broadcast was no exception. The only tangible difference was that this time, the legs being flashed were not attached to a bulldog but to the lovely Elizabeth. A subtle difference, but it certainly did not improve the presentation."

The Ultimate Warrior claims the Intercontinental title from The Honky Tonk Man at SummerSlam 88, the WWF's most recent pay-per-view spectacular.

Diane Schack, Beverly Hills, CA: "The whole thing was silly. To have a match hinge on the striptease antics of a charming—but highly unprofessional—manager is not what I want from a wrestling show. For me, the best

(Continued on page 52)

A VON ERICH EXTRAVAGANZA!

The Von Erich family has long been known as "The First Family Of Professional Wrestling." Now, a deluxe-quality videotape and collectors' edition hardcover book bring all the excitement, drama, tragedy, and triumph of the Von Erichs into your home!

THE VON ERICHS: FRONT ROW RINGSIDE is an up-close and personal look at the Von Erich legend culled from the extensive video library of World Class Championship Wrestling and featuring at-home interviews with Kerry, Kevin, Mike, and Fritz. This program will be a valuable addition to your videotape collection. (Sorry, VHS format only is available in this special offer.) Included in this sensational 70-minute tape:

- The entire June 1, 1982, Fritz Von Erich no-disqualification retirement match against King Kong Bundy.
- The complete March 4, 1983, Kevin Von Erich-Terry Gordy match in which Kevin won the World Class American belt!
- Highlights of David Von Erich battling Jim Garvin, Kamala, and Harley Race.
- The entire May 6, 1984, bout in which Kerry Von Erich captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair at Texas Stadium in front of 43,518 fans.
- Highlights of Mike Von Erich's November 24, 1983, debut match against Gen. Skandor Akbar, and a battle against John Tatum.
- Rare footage of Chris Von Erich; Fritz vs. Joe Blanchard; David spanking Sunshine; six-man action featuring Mike, Lance, & Kevin, and David, Kevin, and Kerry; and Mike's hospitalization from toxic shock syndrome.

THE VON ERICHS: A FAMILY ALBUM is a magnificent history of the *entire* Von Erich family in words and pictures. Subtitled "Tragedies And Triumphs Of America's First Family Of Wrestling," the book chronicles Fritz, Doris, Kevin, David, Kerry, Mike, and Chris—plus rare photos of Jack—in over 100 black-and-white photographs and 32 pages of dazzling color photography. Many of these photos are from the Von Erich personal family scrapbooks (including many baby photos and school portraits) and have *never* been published anywhere—until now! This beautifully designed hardcover volume measures 8½x11 and is 128 pages in length. You'll be proud to add this to your personal library.

SPECIAL OFFER!

You might expect to spend upwards of $59.95 or $69.95 for a Von Erich videotape of this quality, or $20.00 or more for the Von Erich family scrapbook. But in this special magazine offer, you can get *The Von Erichs: Front Row Ringside* for the low price of only $29.95 (plus $3.00 postage and handling), and *The Von Erichs: A Family Album* for the low price of just $13.95 (plus $2.00 postage and handling).

SPECIAL SUPERFAN PACKAGE

Save money and receive both the book and the tape for the bargain price of only $39.95 (plus $5.00 postage and handling). This book and videotape is a must-have for any Von Erich fan. Order today!

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☐ **THE VON ERICHS: A FAMILY ALBUM hardcover book**
☐ **MONEY-SAVING SUPERFAN PACKAGE!—one each: videotape and book**

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- $15.95 ($13.95 plus $2.00 postage and handling) for each *A Family Album* book I am ordering.
- $44.95 ($39.95 plus $5.00 postage and handling) for each *Superfan Package* I am ordering.

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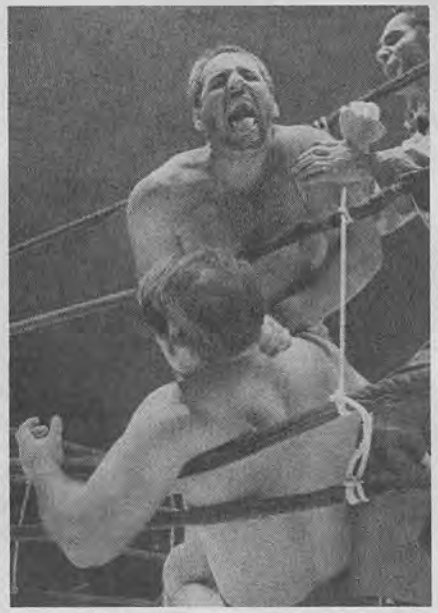
For all orders except U.S. and Canada, you must add $2.00 for each tape or book ordered for boat mail, and $3.00 for each tape or book ordered for airmail. U.S. funds only. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. Foreign customers: Please be sure your videotape system is NTSC compatible.

SCRAPBOOK

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1968

UNRULY FANS IN Tampa, Florida, played a major part in a match between Masked Goliath and fan favorite Eddie Graham. Graham picked up a six-inch length of chain thrown into the ring, thinking that Goliath had brought it in to use against him. Despite Goliath's claim that the chain was not his, an enraged Graham began to pound Goliath mercilessly. To prevent the crowd from rioting, the referee disqualified an innocent Goliath and awarded the bout to Graham . . . Fred Blassie and Buddy Austin began a bloody feud when Blassie accused Austin of not contributing enough to their tag team matches . . . In a Texas death match, Waldo Von Erich blinded Tex McKenzie with a mysterious cloud of white smoke that billowed out of a plastic package Von Erich had pulled from his trunks . . . After having his ribs fractured, and several ligaments and tendons in his shoulder ripped by the Red Raider, a young, determined Dory Funk Jr. unmasked the Raider, who subsequently disappeared from the sport . . . Promoters tried to plan a matchup between NWA champion Gene Kiniski and WWF titlist Bruno Sammartino . . . Sammartino defended his title successfully against The Sheik in front of 10,000 fans in Madison Square Garden . . . NWA RATINGS: 1—Gene Kiniski; 2—Fritz Von Erich; 3—Eddie Graham; 4—The Sheik; 5—Johnny Valentine; 6—John Paul Henning; 7—Ernie Ladd; 8—Bob Ellis; 9—Pat O'Connor; 10—Bob Geigel. AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Bruiser; 3—Crusher; 4—Harley Race; 5—Blackjack Lanza; 6—Bill Watts; 7—Mighty Igor; 8—Mad Dog Vachon; 9—Reg Parks; 10—Doug Gilbert. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Gorilla Monsoon; 3—Toru Tanaka; 4—George Steele; 5—Edouard Carpentier; 6—Spiros Arion; 7—Hans Mortier; 8—Miguel Perez; 9—Victor Rivera; 10—Bull Ramos. TAG TEAMS: 1—Bruiser & Crusher; 2—Pepper Gomez & Pedro Morales; 3—George Becker &

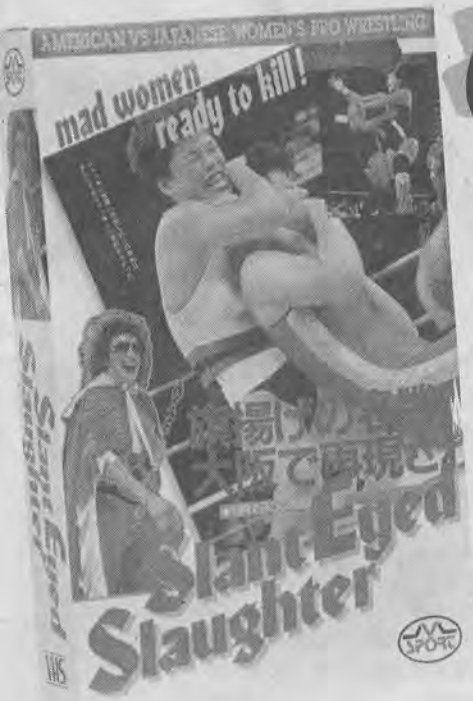
(Continued on page 46)



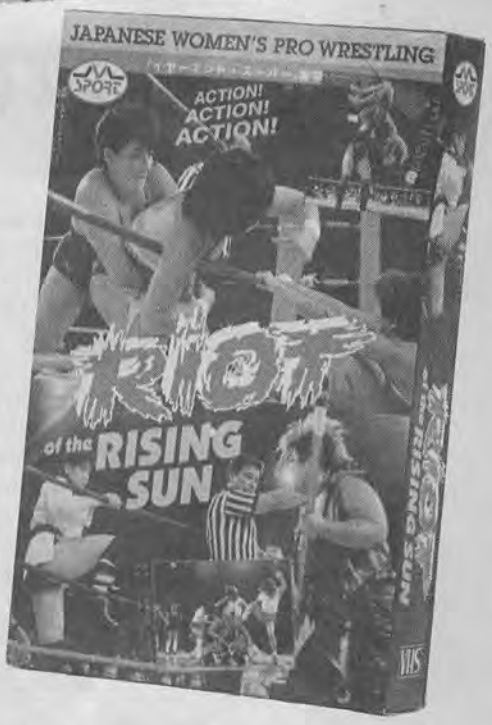
The always-crazy, always-controversial Sheik chokes Bruno Sammartino, who successfully defended his WWF title in this 1968 match. The Sheik is still active.

Eddie Graham pounds on Masked Goliath. Graham and Goliath had some wild matches in Florida during 1968, one time nearly causing the fans to riot!

THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT OF THE YEAR!



You've heard about them . . . you've read about them . . . now you can see them for yourself! Japanese women wrestlers are among the most agile, athletic, acrobatic—and vicious—competitors in the entire mat world. Now, two sensational videotapes bring the dynamic action of Japanese women's wrestling into your own home!



Sample The Excitement!

Jaguar Yokota, The Crush Girls, Devil Masami, The Jumping Bomb Angels, Dump Matsumoto—these are the legends of Japanese women's wrestling. They're all here, and more—including American superstar Wendi Richter. These matches, direct from Japanese television, include the kind of action that, until now, only satellite dish owners or Japanese fans could enjoy. These tapes are certain to become valued collectors' items. They include *complete* matches, not match excerpts!

Slant-Eyed Slaughter

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

Special Magazine Offer:

In the past, you might have expected to spend upwards of $59.95, $69.95, or more for tapes of this quality. But now, for a limited time only, you can order **Slant-Eyed Slaughter** and **Riot Of The Rising Sun** for the special low price of only $29.95 each (plus $3.00 postage and handling). Witness all the excitement and thrills of Japanese women's wrestling—in your own home.

SPECIAL NOTE: These tapes, distributed by Powersports Video in association with American Video, are being sold exclusively for a limited time only in the United States by T.V. Sports. Both tapes include English play-by-play commentary recorded alongside the original Japanese commentary and crowd noise. While the English commentary is poor, the action level and match quality of these bouts more than makes up for it. We're convinced you'll be *completely* satisfied by these programs.

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PLEASE RUSH ME:
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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

For all orders except U.S. and Canada, you must add $2.00 for each tape ordered for boat mail, and $3.00 for each tape ordered for air mail. U.S. funds only. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

HISTORY IS OFTEN made in seconds. One second, an astronaut is inside a metal spacecraft compartment; the next second he's walking on the surface of the moon. One second, two countries are the bloodiest of enemies; the next second they sign monumental peace accords. That's history.

The Ultimate Warrior knows about history, because he rewrote the history book on August 29 at SummerSlam 88. In just 31 seconds, he etched his name into wrestling history forever. In just 31 seconds, the Warrior squashed The Honky Tonk Man and captured the WWF Intercontinental title.

In just 31 seconds, he became our "Wrestler of the Month."

Brutus Beefcake, Honky Tonk's main challenger since WrestleMania IV, had more than five months to pin the crooning champion. Yet the only thing Beefcake had to show for five months of sweaty effort and consistent title shots were plenty of bumps on the head from Jimmy Hart's megaphone and a waistline still devoid of the coveted gold belt.

The Warrior, substituting for Beefcake (who had been injured by Ron Bass several days prior to the SummerSlam bout), proved his mettle by utterly destroying Honky Tonk. Not only did he win the belt "The Barber" so deeply desired, he did so in nearly 1/440,000th of the time Beefcake toiled for victory!

How we actually figured that out doesn't really matter. What's important is the ratio of Warrior's brief title struggle as compared to Beefcake's arduous one. It's a compelling equation of success, and the magnitude of the difference underscores the Warrior's phenomenal achievement. The 31-second title change is the fastest in WWF history, undercutting Bruno Sammartino's 1963 heavyweight title victory over Buddy Rogers by 15 seconds.

A review of the Warrior's historic win is in order.

Honky Tonk's boastful plea for WWF officials to "give me somebody out here to wrestle, I don't care *who* it is" came back to haunt him immediately as Ultimate Warrior stormed from the dressing room like a gladiator possessed.

A passionate sprint to the ring saw The Honky Tonk Man stunned; he instinctively threw the first punch in self-defense. Warrior blocked it, then answered with three quick right hands of his own, the last of which sent Honky to the canvas.

After hurling himself against the ropes to the approval of the fans, Warrior scooped up Honky Tonk and slammed him down to the mat. Another bounce off the ropes preceded an awe-inspiring flying shouldertackle that again sent Honky Tonk down.

By this time, the sellout crowd at Madison Square Garden was in ecstasy witnessing the destruction of the hated I-C champion. And the Warrior, undoubtedly fueled by those cheers, did not let up.

Honky Tonk struggled to his feet only to be met with a Warrior clothesline that sent him down for the last time. The Warrior finished with a big splash off the ropes and hooked Honky's leg for the pin. The Intercontinental belt was his. And it took only 31 seconds.

But Warrior's utter domination of The Honky Tonk Man is only half of this issue's "Wrestler of the Month" story. The other half is the emergence of The Ultimate Warrior as a dominant force in the WWF.

A younger version of Hulk Hogan, Warrior shares more than just the same muscular build as the legendary Hulkster. Since his arrival in the WWF in 1987, Ultimate Warrior has enjoyed phenomenal fan support. If the reaction to his I-C title victory is any indication, Warrior has the potential to become as popular as Hogan himself.

Also, Hogan and Warrior share similar wrestling techniques. Far from being masters of a vast repertoire of scientific moves, both rely on their brute strength and ability to take punishment in order to win matches.

Of course, there's no substitute for an extensive technical background. But to accomplish in just a year what Ultimate Warrior has is quite a feat. The WWF has traditionally been a federation that has been rough on newcomers. They tend to get very few title shots.

But Ultimate Warrior, through determination and strength, found a way around all that. Long before his historic Intercontinental victory, Warrior was being noticed by both the WWF bigwigs and the fans.

But the good graces of federations and fans can be fleeting if they're not backed up with inspirational ring success. Ultimate Warrior provides just that. Every match in which he competes is a match full of the energetic splashes and aerial moves that create genuine fan excitement.

And that's why Ultimate Warrior—the new WWF Intercontinental champion—has also won his first "Wrestler of the Month" award. We suspect it won't be his last. □

Photos by Buddy Myers

Buddy Roberts' Vow To Michael Hayes:

HE'S READY TO TURN GOOD AGAIN!

SummerSlam 88 showed Andre the Giant one thing: He can no longer team with Ted DiBiase. DiBiase's lack of concentration indicated to Andre that he and his partner are moving in different directions

At SummerSlam 88, Andre the Giant pounds Randy Savage against the turnbuckle (top) and makes sure he goes down (above).

FOR THE SECOND time in recent years, Andre the Giant is standing at the crossroads. The last time this happened, Andre was one of the most popular wrestlers in WWF history, second only to reigning champion Hulk Hogan. January, 1987 would usher in more than just the chronological beginning of a new year; it would reveal the new Andre.

In early 1987, Andre—fueled by his never-waning jealousy of Hulk Hogan—was forced to turn rulebreaker in order to get title shots. It was as simple as that. It wasn't a change of *heart* for the famous Frenchman, but it *was* a change of direction. Andre didn't have the brutal soul of a rulebreaker, but he knew what had to be done to further his career.

Wrestlers have to be adaptable to changes. The Andre of 1987 was adaptable. Currently, there's every indication that the Andre of 1989 will be just as able to make a change. A career move like the one of 1987 is looking more and more like a necessity.

That's exactly the position in which Andre finds himself today. The Giant's alliance with Ted DiBiase and Bobby Heenan is getting him nowhere. The events of SummerSlam 88 have finally convinced Andre that he must once again change direction.

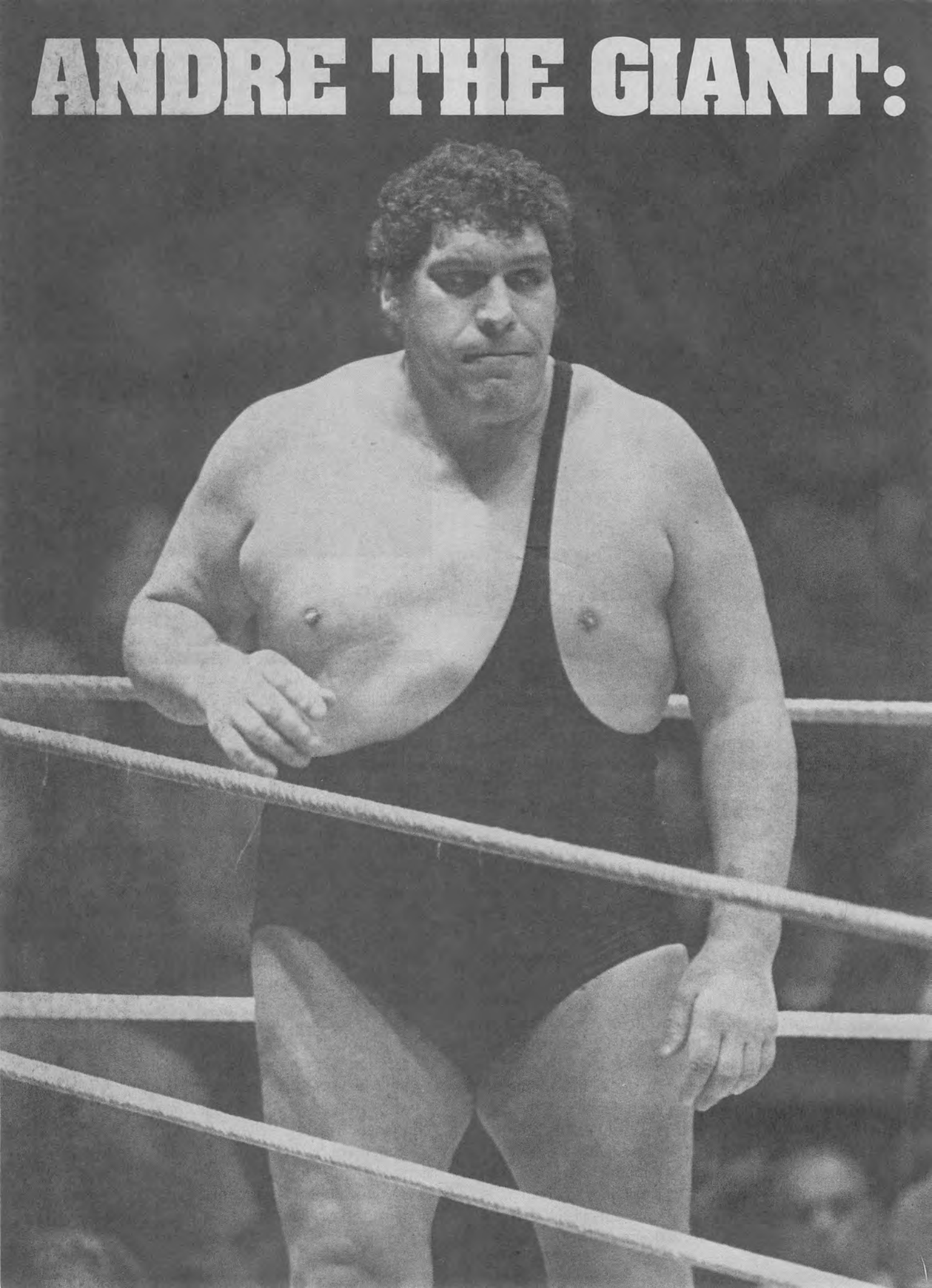
The scene is forever etched in the minds of wrestling fans: While Randy Savage and Hogan were caught out of the ring, Elizabeth removed her skirt to reveal her shapely legs. At that point, no one in Madison Square Garden—neither fans nor the wrestlers themselves—was able to keep a clear mind on the match.

No one, that is, except for Andre the Giant.

With Elizabeth parading her generous gifts on the ring apron, only Andre kept his mind on the matter at hand. Anyone with a pair of eyes (eyes that were fixed on the ring, not on Elizabeth's thighs, that is) could see the Giant's gestures of disgust. Those who

(Continued on page 54)

ANDRE THE GIANT:



JIM DUGGAN

JIM DUGGAN

RONALD REAGAN IS known as "The Great Communicator" because of his personable manner that made even the most complex affairs of state comprehensible to the general populus. These amazing communicative skills enabled Reagan to attain immense popularity.

"Hacksaw" Jim Duggan is poised to continue the Reagan legacy. Duggan already commands the admiration and trust of fans nationwide. They trust him because he appears personable and honest, both aspects of the Reagan persona.

As President, Duggan's honesty and charm would enable him to convince Congress to greatly expand presidential power. Thus empowered, Duggan would seek to repeal all existing Federal gun restrictions. Uncomfortable without his trusty 2x4, Duggan might seek to legalize the ownership of firearms.

There is every indication that as President, Duggan would downplay governmental interference in the day-to-day lives of its citizens. In this manner, his platform could be likened to that of Thomas Jefferson, the third President. Duggan's vision of America as a loose confederacy of free farmers and small-business owners is very similar to the tenets of "anti-Federalism" that got Jefferson elected both in 1800 and 1804.

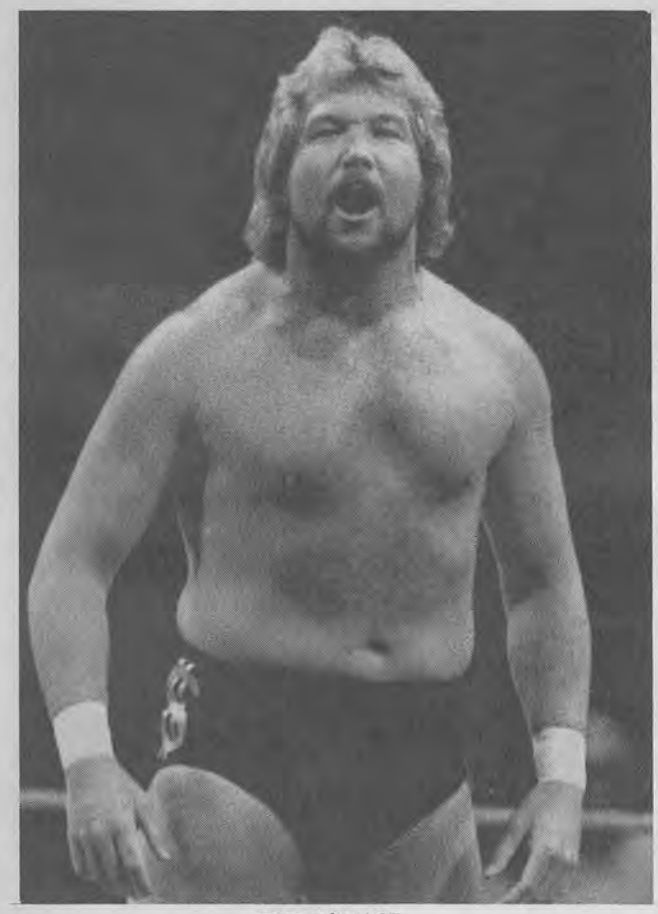
JIM CORNETTE

JIM CORNETTE

AS A MANAGER, Jim Cornette's administrative skills would make him a capable President. His love of tennis, rather than golf, however, would make him highly unconventional. From William Taft to Gerald Ford—and particularly Dwight Eisenhower, who popularized the game for the nation—Presidents have loved golf. The image of Gerald Ford, golf bag in hand while boarding Air Force One, seems infinitely more presidential than a racket-wielding Cornette.

If elected, Cornette would serve the public interest less than any of his predecessors. He would unashamedly admit that his constituency consists solely of one person, his mother, for whose benefit all legislation would be proposed. Running the government to comply with her wishes would alienate Cornette to the rest of the nation.

Also, Cornette's outlandish bravado would culminate in a plan to re-arm the United States to wartime levels. The next step would invariably involve expanding the borders of the nation, first into Canada and Mexico and then into South America. This policy, christened "The Bad Neighbor Policy" (after the "Good Neighbor Policy" of Franklin Roosevelt's Administration), certainly follows Cornette's tendency toward over-aggression and bad puns. Cornette has tried to dominate the NWA, and there's every indication that his administration would try to dominate the globe. □



TED DiBIASE

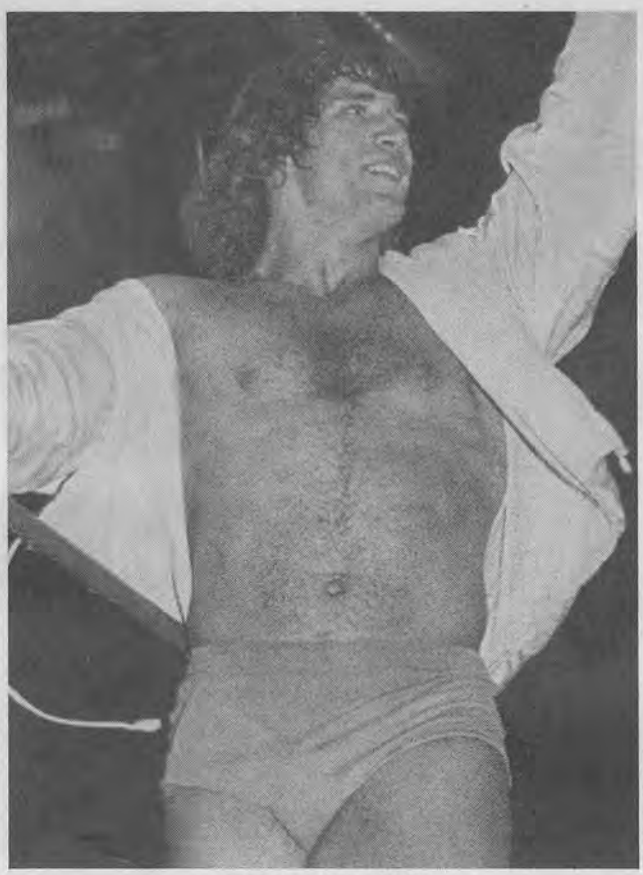
TED DiBIASE

A POLITICIAN CAN do almost anything and still be re-elected. Even at his worst, a Congressman can support legislation that sends thousands to the poor house and still win at the polls. The only thing a politician *cannot* do is be exposed as corrupt.

Ted DiBiase's administration would excel at subversive corruption. Indeed, with his money, DiBiase is not beholden to public opinion. Because of his tremendous financial resources, DiBiase could gain support by buying out big business as well as the smaller special-interest groups. Neither of these groups would worry about the corruption of a DiBiase administration, provided he caters to their specific interests.

Having nullified the impact of public opinion, DiBiase would use his power to increase his own wealth and that of his friends. DiBiase would abuse his presidential office by telling his friends of the future locations of important federal projects. His friends, using this valuable information, could buy cheap land on these sites and then sell the land to the government at greatly increased prices.

Scandals like this would bind DiBiase historically to President Warren Harding, who died in office as the details of the similar "Teapot Dome" scandal were revealed.



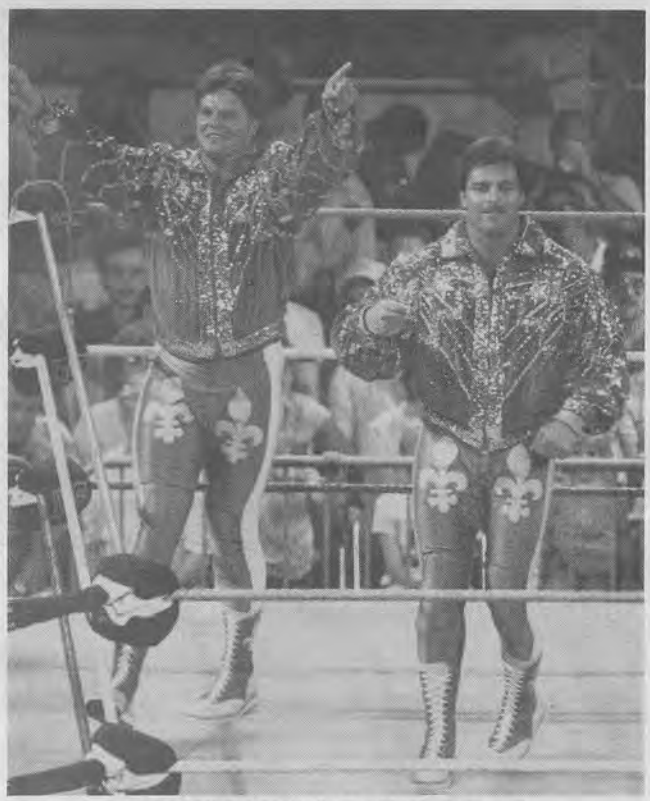
KERRY VON ERICH

KERRY VON ERICH

GROWING UP UNDER the sunny skies and bright sunshine of Texas would exert a large influence on Kerry Von Erich's presidential platform. Von Erich's agenda, entitled "Youth, Nature, and Opportunity," would consist of several innovative youth programs, including a federal takeover of The Fresh Air Fund, which enables underprivileged urban children to spend the summer in the country.

Because athletics have dominated Kerry's life, the Von Erich platform would also include special incentives for inner-city high schools to develop competitive athletic programs. The mainstream voters would be attracted by Kerry's wholesome good looks and middle-class values. Religion, often unpopular as a political plank, would also assume an important position in the Von Erich administration.

Kerry's sporadic tag teaming with Jerry Lawler indicates that, as President, he would be ready to trust our enemies and work with them if necessary. But immediately after the motive for cooperation evaporated, however, Von Erich would resume his policy of aggressive engagement. The result? Divided loyalties among our allies and a confused America wondering which side we're really on.



JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU

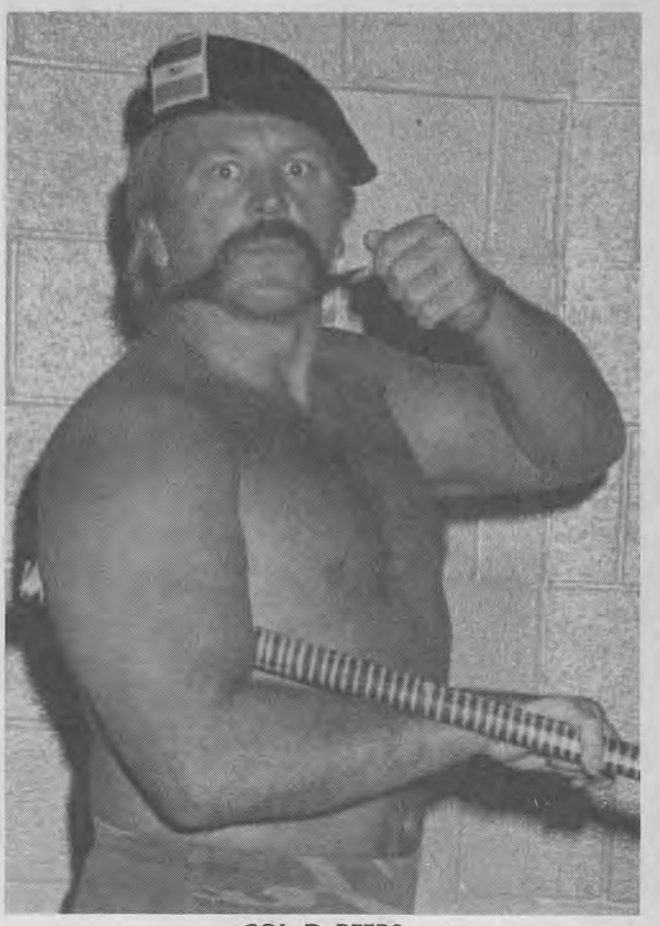
THE ROUGEAU BROTHERS

ALTHOUGH IT IS unconstitutional for foreigners to become President, it is not illegal for them to *campaign* for the office. But if the Rougeaus *could* get elected, their tradition of mockery would taint the presidency and expose the Rougeaus' resentment of all things American. That resentment would certainly underscore their twisted political agenda.

Their plan to divert funds directly to citizens of Canada would be discovered only after $100-million had slipped across the northern border. The presidential pair would be cleared of criminal charges, however, by claiming they didn't know such cash grants to citizens of other countries were illegal.

The Rougeau administration would also lose support because of the inability most citizens would have in determining which Rougeau is President at any given time. Opponents would be forced to criticize the Rougeaus and their "tag team presidency" as unconstitutional. Article II of the Constitution explicitly forbids the President and the Vice President to change offices.

In the end, the Rougeau administration would expose the travesty behind their claim that they love America. Their mock-patriotism would be easily recognized as genuine anti-Americanism, and the pair would be rejected in their re-election campaign by mainstream voters from both parties.



COL. DeBEERS

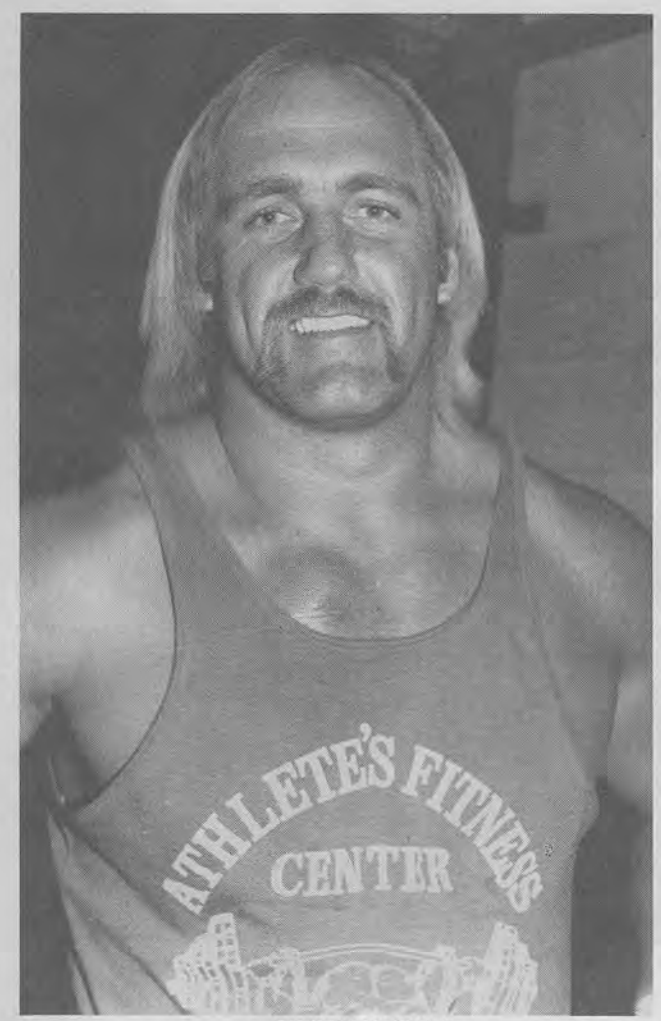
COL. DeBEERS

ANOTHER FOREIGNER, DeBEERS (like Jacques and Raymond Rougeau) would seek only a forum for his demented and highly unpopular views.

DeBeers' overt racism, plus his calls for violence against minorities, makes him abhorrent to mainstream America. DeBeers' platform would follow the pattern of racial inequality and violence established in his native South Africa. In that country, government-sponsored apartheid—or racial segregation—is the only political reality for minorities.

As President, DeBeers might attempt to institute apartheid on American soil. The first step would condone the activities of white-supremacist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and The John Birch Society. Both groups have traditionally been linked to murders and harrassment of minorities.

The next step would involve ending federally financed programs for inner-city blacks and Hispanics. In an attempt to nullify all prior civil rights legislation, DeBeers would also stock the Supreme Court with anti-black judges. A nation under DeBeers' bigoted leadership would end all hopes of justice and opportunity for minorities and bring America to a period of racially motivated violence not seen since the Civil War.



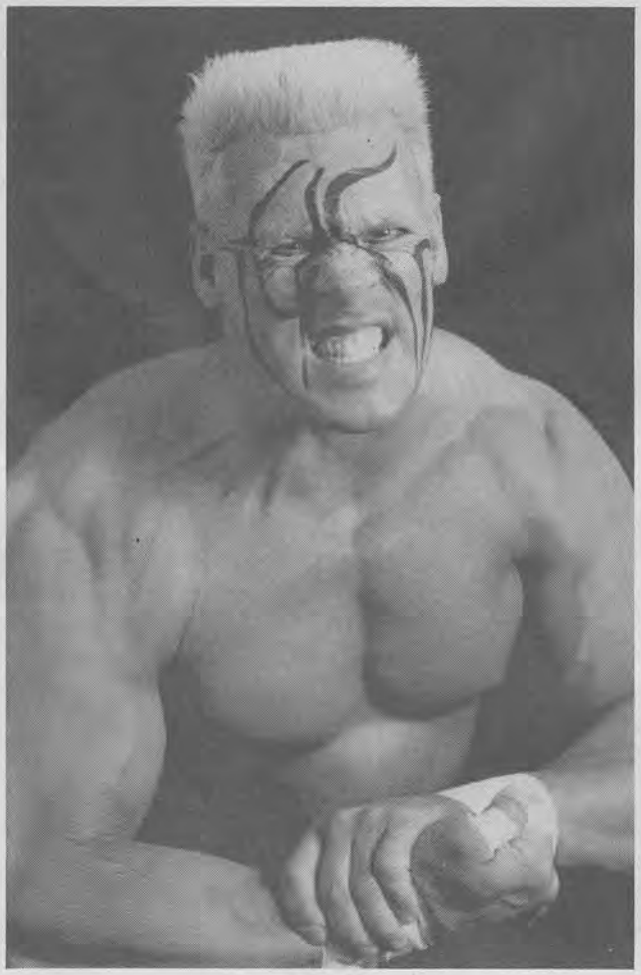
HULK HOGAN

HULK HOGAN

BEFORE THE GREAT expansion of mass media in the 1960s, many Americans knew the President only from a voice on the radio or a photo in a newspaper. In fact, until the early 1900s, most people had never actually *seen* the President for whom they voted.

Today, the media is extremely important in defining the man who seeks the presidency. Much of "The Hulkster's" astounding popularity is due to the expanded mainstream media coverage of wrestling. As President, Hogan would continue to manipulate the media, using it to gain as much air time as possible.

Hogan would appeal to religious and family-oriented Americans with his televised pleas to, "Eat your vitamins, say your prayers, and be true to your country." As President, this philosophy would be expanded into a National Youth Alliance that would establish summer camps for the purpose of patriotic indoctrination and Americanization of foreigners. In addition, Hogan—in an effort to make America fit again—would sponsor legislation making it mandatory to pass the Presidential Fitness Test.



STING

STING

RULING UNDER THE banner of the "Peoples' Party of America," Sting would champion the causes of the all the "little people of our nation." In this manner, Sting would be likened to one of the most popular Presidents in our history: Theodore Roosevelt.

Sting, using his substantial fan support as a base, would forge his platform of "Good is Right, Evil is Wrong" into a comprehensive executive plan. Sting's policy of environmental protectionism would also help link him to Teddy Roosevelt in the eyes of most voters: Roosevelt was the man singly responsible for the establishment of the National Park Service, a tradition of environmentalism largely ignored by the Reagan administration.

A beach-loving native of California, Sting would declare the entire coastline of the United States a National Recreation Area and ban all commercial activities in these areas. Sting's executive order would paraphrase his mentor Roosevelt: "If public beaches flourish, the nation's quality of life would increase immeasurably. No longer would the ugliness of modern industry choke our waterways and stifle our recreational impulses."

RIC FLAIR

JERRY LAWLER

RIC FLAIR

IF UNWARRANTED ATTACKS are any indication (and there's every reason to believe that they are), look for a Flair administration to sponsor military strongarm tactics and explain them as "defensive."

Judging from the sneak-attack on Lex Luger outside the Knight Center in Miami on June 8, 1988, Flair would have supported President Reagan's invasion of Grenada in 1983. That invasion was called "necessary for the protection of American interests," and there is every indication that a Flair administration would continue Reagan's legacy of "defensive" military intervention. In doing so, Flair would allow the deficit to grow, ultimately resulting in staggering unemployment, though it is not difficult to imagine Flair asking, "Why don't the poor just get a job?"

Such apparent lack of concern for the underprivileged, combined with Flair's ostentatiously wild lifestyle, should make him unpopular among minority voters, yet endear him to the nation's rich. The paranoia shown by Flair as a wrestler would resurface and make him increasingly reclusive during the last years of his term. This fear of outside attack would force him to greatly expand the activities of the Secret Service and CIA in a blatant show of self-protection.

JERRY LAWLER

MOST AMERICANS WOULD be extremely wary of a candidate who calls himself "The King." Besides Lawler's unconstitutional desire to install himself as the American monarch, a Lawler administration would lose support because of his flip-flopping on important issues.

In the political arena, as in the wrestling arena, citizens demand steadfast commitment to an ideology. But Lawler can't offer such commitment. Like any monarch, Lawler would invariably gather broad executive and legislative powers and vest them into his own office. While absolute power may, in fact, corrupt absolutely, it is Lawler's inability to commit to one viewpoint that would prove most dangerous. His "sometime rulebreaker, sometime scientific" ring style would certainly show up in important executive orders, though it is likely (following his status in Memphis) that Lawler would nevertheless become one of the most popular Presidents of the century.

Look for Lawler to first favor a massive military buildup, only to reconsider after the election. But regardless of any political subtleties, Lawler stands for the establishment of a permanent monarchy—something this country has previously rejected.

Sports Review Election Day Spectacular:

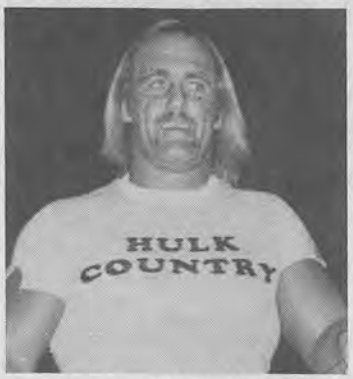
WHAT 10 WRESTLERS WOULD DO IF THEY WERE PRESIDENT!

On November 8, Americans will go to the polls to vote for either Michael Dukakis or George Bush for President. Election Day is one of the most important days of the year, so why be limited to just two presidential options? Here's a special section outlining what 10 top wrestlers might do if they became President!

By Gersh Kuntzman

THE UNITED STATES Constitution is a near-perfect document. Although written more than 200 years ago, it has proven incredibly adaptable to unforeseen problems. Indeed, with just a few alterations here and there, it is just as important to us today as it was to a fledgling U.S. 201 years ago.

Perhaps the only circumstance *not* envisioned by the far-seeing molders of modern democracy was the advent of political parties. In fact, in 1804, the Constitution (still a brittle document just 14 years young) had to be amended to take into account this new political reality. The party system immediately began to divide the nation in two—a condition that continues today. Thus, when Americans head to the polls on November 8, they will meet with a simple choice: vote for either Democrat Michael Dukakis or Republican George Bush.



President Hulk Hogan?

Many people, unable to cast a vote motivated by a passion, will instead be forced to vote for the perceived lesser of two evils. For most Democrats, that choice will be Dukakis; for many Republican voters, George Bush will be their man.

But no matter whom the voter chooses, he will be forced to accept a candidate whose vision of America differs from his own—perhaps greatly—on many issues. Accepting "the lesser of two evils" means making sacrifices. That's the legacy of the two-party system in America; the limited choice is perhaps the main reason so many voters stay *away* from the polls on Election Day.

Limited choices will always mean limited voter turnout. But that's not how the framers of the Constitution envisioned it, and that's why *Sports Review Wrestling* is making an attempt to broaden those choices. That's why we're presenting to you this special section featuring what we believe would be the political platforms and agendas of 10 top wrestlers.

You may not be able to vote for any of these men this year on an official ballot, but remember—there's always 1992!

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Jones' stable in the first place?

A: That was *my* doing. Assassin is one of the premier athletes in Soviet Union, one of the greatest and most famous amateur wrestlers in history. People would be shocked if they learned who is under that mask. When Warlord and Barbarian left Jones, I contacted many top Russian leaders about importing this man to United States. I knew that if I could work with him, I could make him a top wrestler in a matter of months.

Q: Apparently, you did your job. The Assassin is one of the most impressive masked wrestlers to hit the NWA in years. It must have made the attack in Georgia that much worse for you.

A: Agreed. It was me who spent hour upon hour working with the Assassin, teaching him everything I knew about the NWA and its wrestlers. Now, I have been attacked by him and another famous Soviet athlete. Not only have I been betrayed by Jones, but also by my own countrymen. It is quite humiliating.

Q: Many wrestling observers don't think you have anything to feel humiliated about at all. It was Jones' fault that you lost that match against Morton. You had been dragged around the ring as Morton touched three ringposts; as Morton strained to reach the fourth, you reached out and grabbed Jones' riding crop. You managed to hold on, but Jones let it go.

A: That is correct, American journalist. I was holding on, but Jones apparently was too weak to hold on. *He* let riding crop go. *He* lost match. But Jones has always been one to blame others for his *own* misfortunes. I had been a fool to listen to him. It was a bad strategy to hold on to the riding crop when I could have used the ropes. Jones kept screaming, "Grab on, grab on." So I did. Then I am verbally abused by this man for his mistake. So I lost my temper and hit him. Then I got hit from behind by my own partner. It just doesn't make sense to Koloff.

Ivan chokes Nikita with a chain. This may never happen again because Nikita is very sympathetic to his uncle's plight, despite their past disagreements.

Q: Many people think it would make sense for you to join your nephew Nikita, and try to gain revenge on the Assassins. After all, he came to your rescue when Jones and his Russians sneak-attacked you again during a match September 11 in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Then Nikita reached out his hand in a token of friendship. You hesitated, but then shook his hand. Will you team with Nikita again?

A: It was a shock for me to see Nikita come to the ring, because there has been much bad blood between us. Nikita has been another important embarrassment for me in the past. He made me lose face with high-ranking Soviet officials. Together, we were supposed to win all NWA belts and bring them back to Russia for a day of celebration. Then Nikita and I have parting of the ways, and he adopts American training techniques and philosophies. I was very strongly reprimanded by Soviet government for failing in my mission here. But he is now considered one of the great wrestlers in this country. I have some thinking to do about Nikita. I am very confused about what I should do.

Q: All of this leaves you in a bad position right now, doesn't it? Your manager has abandoned you. The only other man you were regularly teaming with, Dick Murdoch, has reformed the Texas Outlaws with Dusty Rhodes. Even your own homeland has chastised you . . .

A: That is enough, American journalist. You have made your point very clear. You are correct in that this is hardest time for Koloff. I now have to display much courage and determination. I must reclaim the pride I have lost. I will gain revenge on Jones and his Assassins. I now am on the most important mission of my career, one that could cost me my career and my life. But Soviet teachings tell me never to quit, never to give up. I

(Continued on page 53)

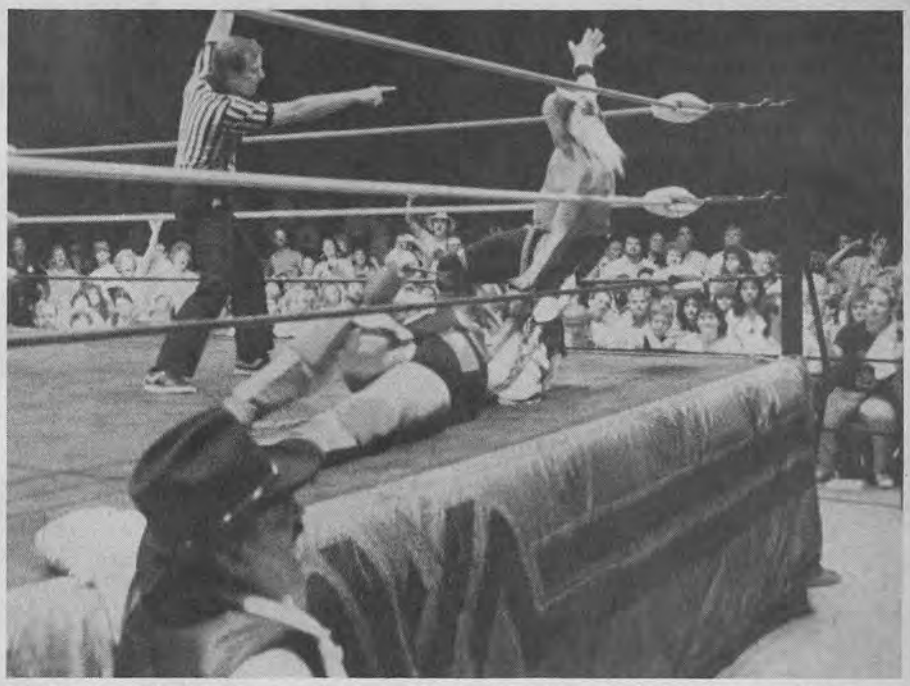
Q: Ivan, thank you for speaking out during what must be a very difficult time for you. I think that you would admit that you have been one of the most hated men in wrestling for most of the past 20 years, but right now I think the fans are sympathetic to your plight. They can't believe the way Jones and those Russians attacked you when you lost that match against Morton.

A: I do not control the fans. They are not my concern. I have always wrestled the only way I know how, and in doing so I have proven my worth all over the world. I am a former WWF World champion. I am a four-time NWA World tag team champion. I have held the U.S. tag team title as well, and I have earned more regional belts than I can name. Suddenly, that is not good enough for Paul Jones. All he cares about is ending the careers of these Road Warriors.

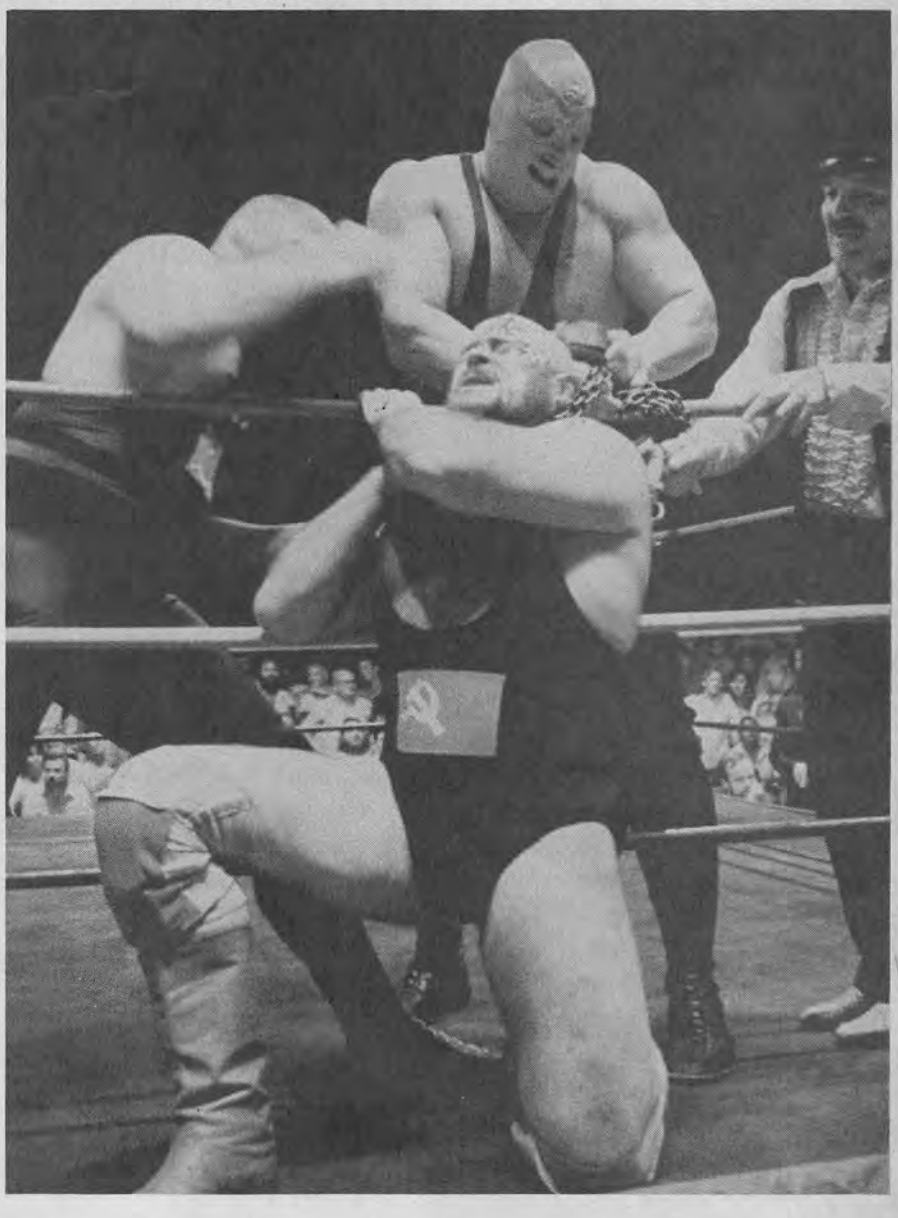
Q: Why does Jones have this obsession with the Warriors? For more than a year, he's been trying to cripple them, but he's been unsuccessful every time.

A: This is true. Road Warriors may be two of the strongest men ever to compete in wrestling. We succeeded in injuring them twice, but they came back both times. I always felt that Russian Assassin and myself were on verge of beating them. Now, we will never have chance again. This is why Warlord and Barbarian left Jones, even though they held NWA six-man championship along with myself. They could not put up with Jones' ridiculous plans and schemes any longer. Jones was becoming more desperate for victories as the weeks went by. Now, I find myself abandoned by this man, for whom I have given my all inside that ring. I have been deeply ashamed and embarrassed by this man. Jones and Assassin will soon pay for what was done to Koloff.

Q: Speaking of The Russian Assassin, how did he become a member of



Rick Morton wins this Russian chain match after Jones lets go of the riding crop Koloff was using for leverage (above). Koloff is attacked by The Russian Assassins (below).



INTERVIEW

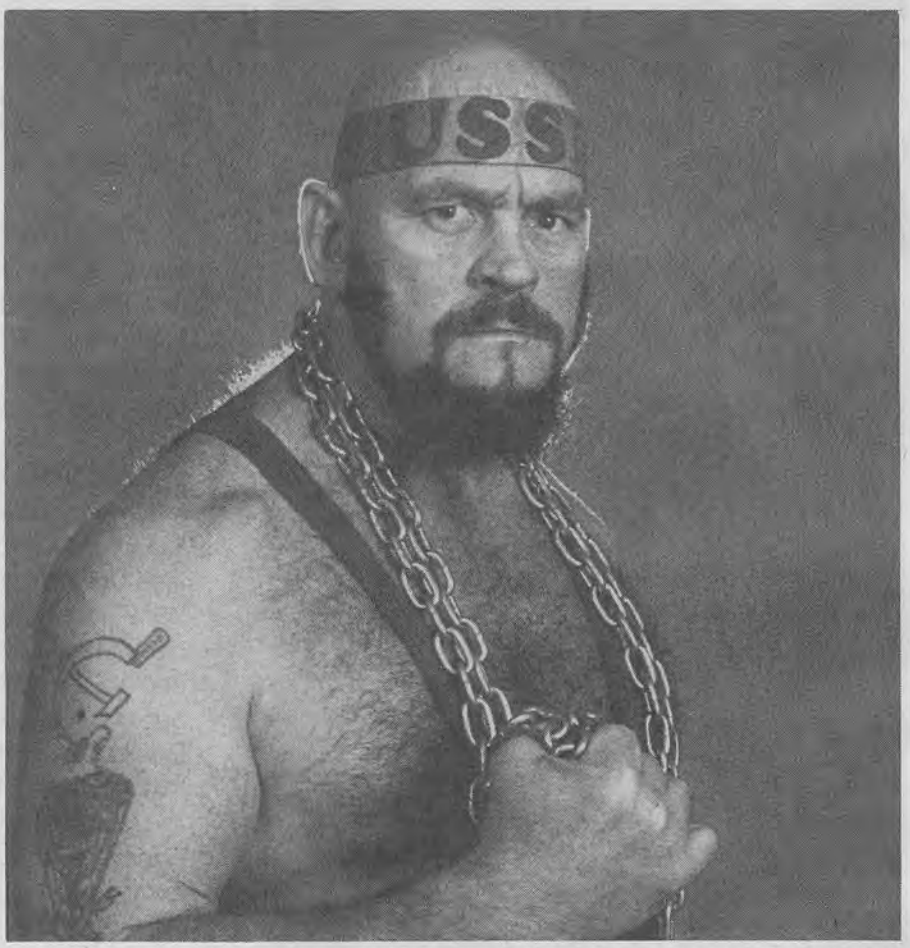
IVAN KOLOFF

AFTER YEARS OF establishing himself as one of the most accomplished men in wrestling, Ivan Koloff is a man at the crossroads. He has never been so confused. He has never been so betrayed. He never thought his career would come to this.

Koloff should have seen the warning signals. The events of the summer have made his now-former manager, Paul Jones, become more than a bit unbalanced. Jones was incensed when the men he had hand-picked to destroy The Road Warriors, The Warlord and The Barbarian, fled his stable after a dispute over their participation in scaffold matches.

Jones was frantic; he had signed a number of contracts for Warlord and Barbarian to face the Warriors in a host of these dangerous matches throughout the NWA's Great American Bash series. Koloff told his manager not to worry. He knew of a 6'8", 318-pound giant who was languishing in the Soviet Union awaiting his chance to prove his worth in American wrestling rings. Soon, the tag team of Koloff and The Russian Assassin was born—but they proceeded to lose every scaffold match against the Warriors.

Jones, whose only goal in wrestling seems to be the annihilation of The Road Warriors, was incensed. He blamed Koloff for the losses, and publicly questioned Koloff's ability in this late stage of his career. He announced he would give Koloff a chance to prove his worth, signing his man to a Russian chain match against Rick Morton at the September 7 Clash of the Champions in Albany, Georgia.



Ivan Koloff has spent years as one of the most hated men in wrestling, but, following his break with Paul Jones, he may start to hear some cheers. If Ivan starts teaming with his nephew Nikita, he could become even more popular.

Jones' own mistake led to Koloff's defeat in this match. Incensed, Jones teamed with the Assassin and a second Russian Assassin to beat Koloff unconscious—and hang him from the top ring rope with the same chain that had been used in the match!

***Sports Review Wrestling** Assistant Editor Bob Smith traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina, to speak with an unusually subdued Koloff. At press time, Koloff was a free agent, his own man for the first time in years. He spoke about his betrayal by Jones, his attitude toward wrestling, and his relationship with his nephew Nikita Koloff, who has now pledged to support his uncle.*

There are two sides to every story, and nowhere is that more true than in professional wrestling. Each month, two of the world's most respected mat journalists will debate an important issue concerning the sport, facing off for an exchange of ideas, leaving the final decision up to *you*!

COUNTERPOINT

Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson will not be successful in the WWF

Arn Anderson stomps on Lex Luger. Thanks to the managerial prowess of J.J. Dillon, Anderson and Blanchard had it good in the NWA, in Assistant Editor Bob Smith's opinion. He thinks they never should have left.

By Bob Smith

AS MEMBERS OF The Four Horsemen, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson were two of the most feared men in the sport. They were also among the most financially secure men in wrestling, thanks to the business acumen of manager J.J. Dillon. And now they have simply walked away from it all.

What could possibly be going through their minds? The thought of entering the WWF probably whetted their competitive appetites, particularly with the lumbering Demolition holding the WWF tag title. The former Horsemen probably figured they could get immediate title shots based on their past records.

Think again. Already in line for shots at the belts are The Hart Foundation, Warlord and Barbarian, Jim Powers and Paul Roma, The Killer Bees, The Rougeaus, The Bolsheviks, and The Rockers. That's a lot of competition, and Tully and Arn will more than likely end up in preliminary matches for months.

Blanchard and Anderson are also entering a federation where their past accomplishments are likely to be forgotten. When Harley Race, a seven-time former NWA World champion, entered the WWF in late 1985, not a single word of his incredible string of titles was even mentioned. The Rockers are former AWA World tag team champions, but they've failed to receive title matches against Demolition. Arn and Tully would be foolish to think things will be any different for them.

The most puzzling aspect of all of this is that Anderson and Blanchard were secure in the NWA and in the Horsemen. With a shrewd operator like Dillon guiding them, they weren't going to be forgotten simply because they lost the NWA tag title to The Midnight Express.

Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, two of the toughest, most skilled technical wrestlers in history, are now in the WWF, land of snakes, dogs, birds, idiotic Elvis impersonators, ringside strip shows, and bogus evangelical commentators.

I think they've trashed their past for an uncertain future.

Bob Smith is an assistant editor of *Sports Review Wrestling*.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

POINT

Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson will be successful in the WWF

Tully Blanchard's slingshot suplex is one of the most effective finishing maneuvers in the sport. Moves like this will make Blanchard and Arn Anderson a successful tag team in the WWF, writes Assistant Editor Gersh Kuntzman.

By Gersh Kuntzman

IT IS IMPORTANT to understand that Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson's decision to join the WWF is not unprecedented. The rosters of the WWF would be bare if you take away those wrestlers who joined from other federations.

But just because federation-jumping is common doesn't mean Tully and Arn are going to find greener grass on the other side of the wrestling fence. In the past, success in the WWF has been limited for some of the biggest stars from other federations. Seven-time NWA World champion Harley Race went to the WWF only to find his style outmoded and his history stripped away from him. The same has been true for recent WWF arrivals Terry Taylor and Curt Hennig.

But Tully and Arn are different. Unlike Race, they arrive in the WWF at the absolute peak of their game. Before their departure, Blanchard and Anderson held the NWA World tag team belts for 11 of the last 12 months. These men are champions through and through.

And don't think for a minute that they'll run into the same problems encountered by The Powers of Pain. When Warlord and Barbarian came to the WWF, most observers thought they'd immediately win the WWF World belts. For a few weeks it seemed like they might, but it didn't happen. Why? Because the NWA isn't as good as the WWF? Certainly not.

The reason The Powers of Pain didn't excel in the WWF is because they're just not a top-quality tag team. They were *run out* of the NWA by The Road Warriors. Warlord and Barbarian didn't leave after a phenomenal run as champions, like Tully and Arn. Blanchard and Anderson should have no problem continuing the tag team domination they've enjoyed in the NWA.

WWF competition is not ready for athletes like Tully and Arn. The former NWA champs come to the WWF with vast repertoires of scientific and rulebreaking moves, as well as the ability to wrestle all night if they have to. To win the WWF tag team title, all they'll have to do is wear Demolition down. Neither Ax nor Smash have proven they can go the distance as Tully and Arn have.

Gersh Kuntzman is an assistant editor of *Sports Review Wrestling.*

The Ultimate Warrior needed only 31 seconds to beat The Honky Tonk Man for the Intercontinental title.

SAMOANS WILL ANNIHILATE TRAITORS!

IT WAS CLEARLY one of the biggest upsets of the year. The Samoan Swat Team, Fatu and Samu, defeated Kevin and Kerry Von Erich for the World Class tag team title August 12 at The Sportatorium in Dallas. Buddy Roberts, the manager of The SST, had plenty to say afterward, but none of it had anything to do with the championship match that had taken place only minutes earlier.

"This should show you something, Hayes!" screamed Roberts at startled reporters. "Let this be a warning, you turncoat slime! There isn't another team in wrestling that can stop the awesome talents of my beasts from the jungle. My champions are going to seal your doom, Hayes! *Hahaha!*"

Rather than bask in the glory of ending the Von Erichs' lengthy title reign, the crazed Roberts chose to vent his frustrations toward Michael Hayes, his former ally in the infamous trio known as The Fabulous Freebirds. Roberts' insane ravings have shocked and disturbed fans throughout Texas. The thought of this unbalanced man controlling a team like The SST is frightening.

Samu executes a legdrop on Kerry Von Erich (above); Fatu controls Michael Hayes (top left and right).

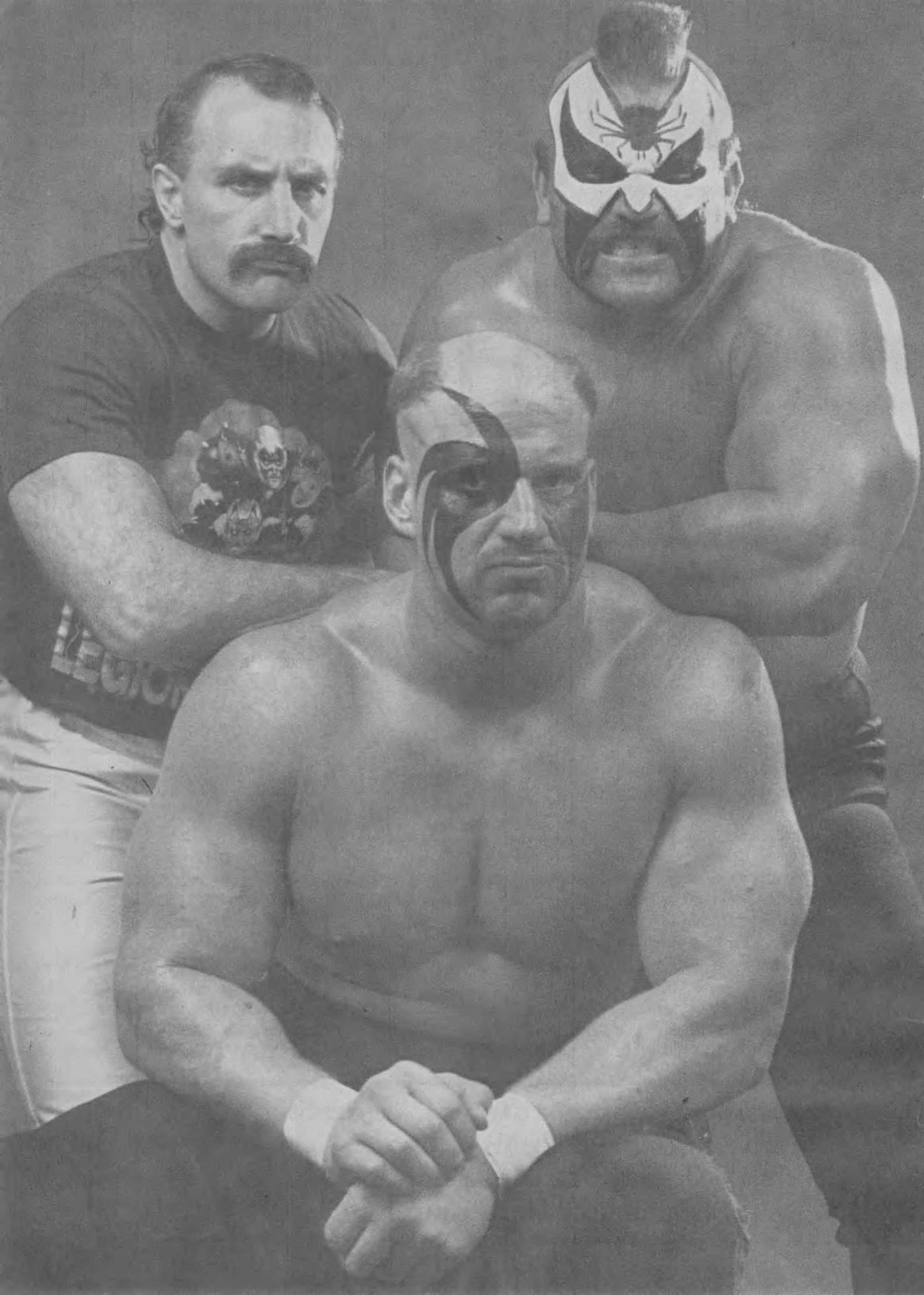
Roberts is clearly obsessed. Hayes and Terry Gordy, the other Freebirds, have managed to find new goals since splitting from Roberts early this year, but Roberts *still* refuses to let this raging feud against his former friends end.

"Defeating those Von Erich wimps was only the first phase of my plan," threatened Roberts, who now dresses in a similar fashion to his Samoans. "Now that this title belongs to the world's greatest tag team, Fatu and Samu, we now have another plan—a more important plan. We will rid the world of the evil Michael Hayes, the worst traitor in wrestling. He's gonna learn never to turn his back on Buddy Roberts again."

Actually, the Samoans had *already* made Hayes realize he had a major problem on his hands. Prior to their winning the title, Samu, Fatu, and

(Continued on page 56)

Buddy Roberts had reason to rejoice when his Samoan Swat Team, Fatu and Samu, captured the World Class tag team title from the Von Erichs. But defending the title is secondary to Roberts' main goal—destroying his former partner, Michael Hayes!



THE ROAD WARRIORS:

Can The Horsemen Survive Their Wrath?

The Road Warriors could have suffered a severe letdown after seeing Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson lose their NWA World tag team belts to The Midnight Express and then skipping town. Not to worry, the Warriors say. There are two Horsemen left, and they're going to get them!

ANIMAL AND HAWK were in rare form. The date was August 26, 1988, and the awesome duo had just defeated NWA World tag team champions Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson by disqualification at The Omni in Atlanta. Buoyed by this hard-fought victory, The Road Warriors were primed for the future as they celebrated in The Omni locker room.

"Man, this feels almost as good as if we had beaten those bums for the title!" boasted Animal, so ecstatic that he was playfully lifting reporters off the ground, an uncharacteristic action for the normally stoic giant. "It's been too damn long since the Warriors won a world title. The belts are only a small part of it. We want to rid the NWA of The Four Horsemen, too. No matter which combination you choose, we're still too much for 'em, and that includes Ric Flair and Barry Windham, too. Bring 'em on!"

"This is only the beginning," chimed in manager Paul Ellering. "Tully and Arn have been avoiding my Legion of Doom for months, and when we've managed to get a match, we've beaten the stuffings out of them. Well, we won't put up with it anymore. Anderson and Blanchard are the top names on our hit list of destruction."

After months of dogging NWA promoters for title matches, The Road Warriors seemed on the verge of garnering the World championship that many experts believe they are destined to win. Unfortunately, Anderson and Blanchard are no longer around for the Warriors to defeat. The former champions left the NWA after losing the World tag team title to The Midnight Express on September 10 in Philadelphia.

"*We* wanted to beat Tully and Arn for those belts," moaned a bile-spitting Hawk while kicking a locker. "Those lousy little dweebs weren't good enough to hold our jockstraps, and we wanted the chance to show the world that we're their masters. But we want a lot more than just the World title. We want the Horsemen! We want J.J. Dillon to pay for putting us off for so long."

Thwarted in their efforts to defeat Anderson and Blanchard, recent events have only served to make The Road Warriors hungry for the remaining Horsemen. If recent comments by Animal and Hawk are any indication, Ric Flair and Barry Windham will be ex-

(Continued on page 60)

Crumbling THE OF

Once Jimmy Hart was on top of the WWF: The Hart Foundation were the World tag team champions and The Honky Tonk Man was Intercontinental titlist. Now Hart has nothing. Can "The Mouth of the South" regain his former dominance before he outlives his usefulness as a manager?

WHEN THE HART Foundation—Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart—defeated The British Bulldogs on January 26, 1987, to win the WWF World tag team title, Jimmy Hart received a lot of the credit. And rightfully so. Before the match, Hart had made a deal with referee Danny Davis. *Call it as* ***we*** *see it,* Hart said in effect, *and you'll be the newest member of The Hart Foundation.* Davis didn't disappoint Hart, and his place in the Foundation was assured.

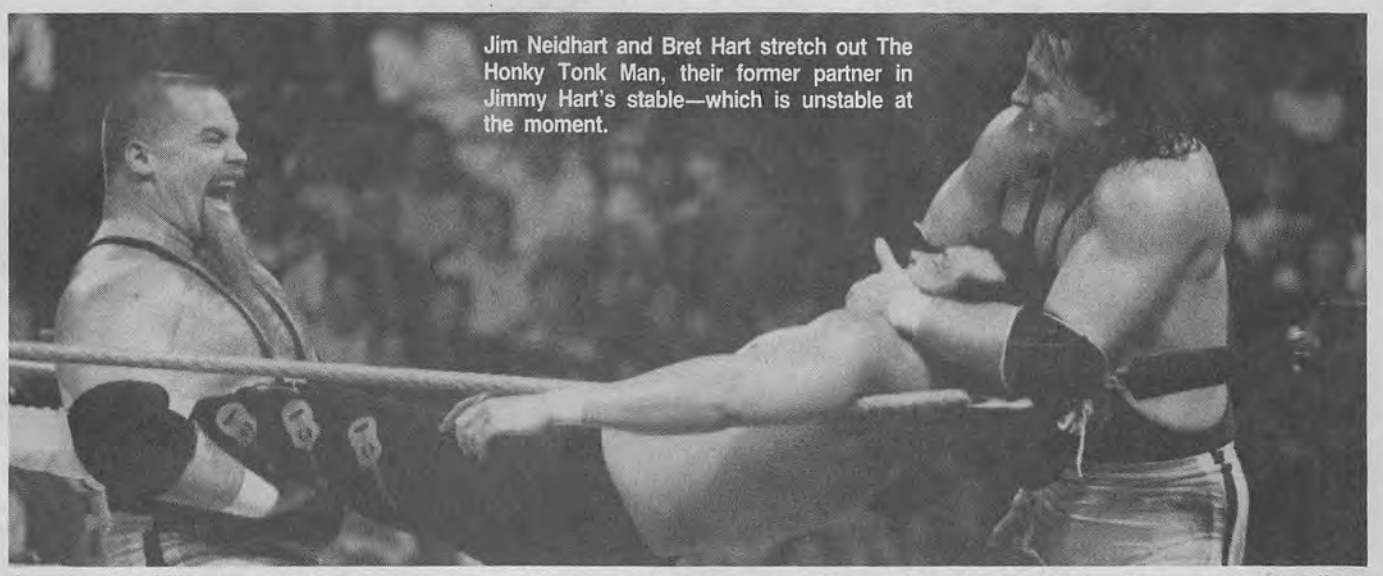
When The Honky Tonk Man won the Intercontinental title from Rick Steamboat on June 2 that same year, Hart again received much of the credit. He took a wrestler many thought couldn't win a match against his own grandmother and molded him into a champion. What Honky Tonk lacked in skill was made up by Hart's constant and timely interference.

For the next 4½ months after Honky Tonk's title win, Hart reigned supreme. He replaced Bobby Heenan as the king of WWF managers. Not since the glory days of Capt. Lou Albano had one manager commanded such control over the championship gold. Only Hulk Hogan's World title eluded Hart, but he could console himself with the fact that it had eluded so many others. After all, two out of three is a superb winning average in *any* sport.

On the strength of his unquestioned success, the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* voted Hart 1987's Manager of the Year. Few could doubt that Hart had a better year than any other manager in

From The Foundation:

COLLAPSE JIMMY HART'S EMPIRE



Jim Neidhart and Bret Hart stretch out The Honky Tonk Man, their former partner in Jimmy Hart's stable—which is unstable at the moment.

the game. The way things were going, it was beginning to appear that the manager from Memphis, a nine-year veteran of the mat wars, would finally join the pantheon of all-time great managers that includes Albano, The Grand Wizard, and J.J. Dillon.

But all the visions of grandeur would soon dissolve into nothingness.

The first sign of trouble occurred on October 27, 1987, when the Foundation lost their tag title to Rick Martel and Tito Santana. The match ended when Neidhart quickly submitted to Martel's application of the Boston crab. Many questioned the wisdom of Hart letting Neidhart wrestle with a severe back injury he had sustained just a few days earlier. Not willing to let his opponents claim any sort of victory, Hart allowed the match to take place as scheduled. He gambled, and he lost.

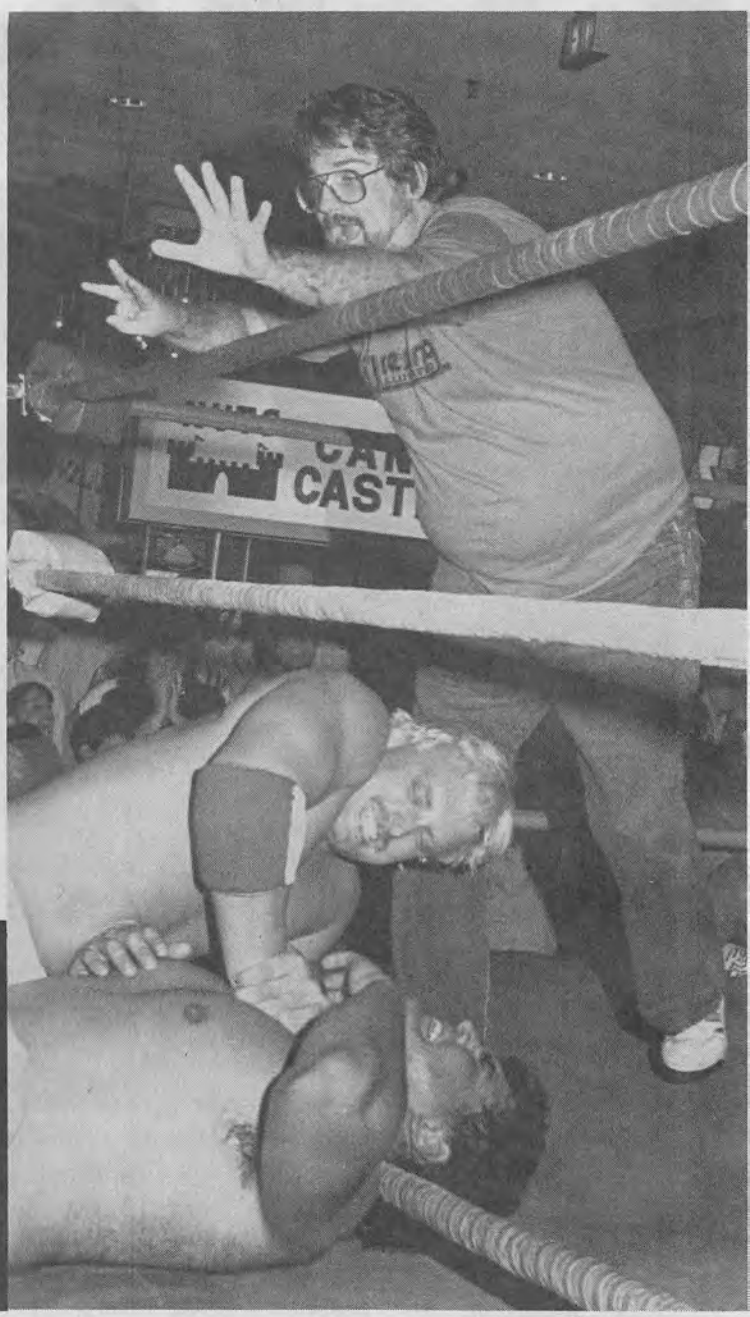
Hart's problems deepened when Bret Hart was ambushed by Bad News Brown at the WrestleMania IV battle royal. That incident started a chain of events that ended with Bret and Neidhart dumping Hart as their manager. For the first time in years, Hart was caught completely off-guard by his charges.

"Jimmy thought he had things under control," said *Sports Review* Senior Editor Bill Apter. "He never expected Bret and Neidhart to desert him. When he led them to the title, he thought they'd be loyal no matter what. Everything Hart did was built on the assumption that Bret and Neidhart were squarely behind him. When they

(Continued on page 58)

Sports Review Editor Is Referee For A Night:

"IT'S NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKS"



Sports Review Wrestling Assistant Editor Bob Smith, upset with the work of many top wrestling referees, decided to get into the ring and try to become an arbiter himself. This assignment turned out to be more than he bargained for!

Photos by Bill Apter

By Bob Smith

THIS SECTION OF the magazine was to be supposed to be filled with an article titled, "Let's Get Rid Of Those Lousy Referees." Fed up with all the rules infractions I've been seeing in recent weeks, I decided to publish the most scathing piece I'd written since joining the staff of *Sports Review Wrestling* several months ago.

Passing by my desk, Senior Editor Bill Apter caught a glimpse of the column on my computer terminal. The acid-toned text stopped him in his tracks.

"Bob, you can't print this!" Apter implored, shocked by what he read. "You're taking vicious digs at men like Dick Kroll, Marty Miller, and Tommy Young, all of whom are the best at what they

do. I think they're the best referees wrestling has to offer."

"Wrong," I responded. "Referees are letting too many rules violations take place, and people are getting hurt because of their incompetence. I feel it's my responsibility to inform the public about the poor job they do."

"That's some pretty tough talk from someone who's never set foot in a wrestling ring," said Apter. "There's much more to being a referee than meets the eye. I'd bet if you tried it, you'd be so confused that the fans would hoot you right out of the arena!"

"You're on!" I boasted, brimming with self-importance. "Bill, if you can find someone to train me, I'll bet I can do a better job than the guys I mention in this article."

Apter, surprisingly, took my threat seriously. The next day, I received a phone call from former grappler Mark Tendler, who now serves as a matchmaker and trainer for Wrestling Stars International, an independent organization that promotes cards all over the globe.

"Bob, I understand you want to be a referee," Tendler said. "If you're serious, you're going to have to train. It'll take three intense weeks, and you're going to have to work out at my camp. Are you up for it?"

I realized it was time to put up or shut up. I agreed to go into training. Sitting three desks behind me, Apter was laughing hysterically.

"You'll *never* do it," he said between guffaws.

The training sessions were no laughing matter. As it turns out, referees have to go through schooling every bit as grueling as that of aspiring wrestlers. For 21 consecutive days, I worked out with weights and did road work for the first time since high school. I sat with Tendler for hours as he explained the subtle differences between legal and illegal holds.

Tendler taught me the hardest part of the referee's job, which is to stay close to the action while not getting in the way of the wrestlers' slams and holds. "You can end up in the hospital in an instant if you aren't careful," Tendler warned.

I worked on the mat with several young wrestlers, who openly scoffed at the sight of this older, clearly out-of-shape reporter trying to keep up with them. I began to wonder if I had taken on more than I could handle.

At the end of the final day of training, Tendler called me into his office. I was certain he would tell me I had failed the course.

Sports Review **Editor Bob Smith starts to count out Preston Steele and Carmine Albano (left). Before his first match as a referee, Smith gets advice from promoter Mark Tendler (right). Smith tells Steele to back off (below) and watches for illegal holds (bottom).**

Smith warns Cheetah Kid about his actions against Commando (above). Steele has Albano pinned, and Smith is there to make the count (below). Smith says he now has a lot more respect for referees and the difficult job they do.

"I *do* have doubts," said Tendler. "But I've been impressed with your attitude. I'm assigning you to two matches at a card at a local shopping mall. This will be my chance to see what you've really got."

It also would be *my* chance to show Apter, who just happened to be at ringside for the event, that anybody who tried to break the rules wouldn't have an opportunity to do it with this 220-pounder as the official.

Fat chance. The first of my two assigned matches pitted popular Tom Brandi and young Preston Steele against the rulebreaking team of Mike Kaluha and Carmine Albano. From the moment the opening bell rang, Kaluha and Albano played me for a complete fool. Tendler hadn't warned me about *this.*

"He's pulling my hair, ref!" Kaluha screamed as I inspected a headlock from behind. As I ran to the front to check his complaint, *Albano* pulled Brandi's hair and sent him falling to the mat.

"C'mon, ref!" screamed the crowd. "You stink!" Pretty funny, I thought; I've screamed similar insults as a spectator. Kaluha and Albano were also masters at getting my attention away from their corner so they could double-team their opponents. The fans were outraged—at *me.*

Later, a real moment of truth: All four wrestlers battled outside the ring. I counted both teams out, then jumped from the ring to try and stop the carnage. The crowd booed, wanting to see the match come to a decisive conclusion.

Next came the main event, pitting the incredible Cheetah Kid against the 275-pound Commando. This time, things *really* got hot. Both wrestlers clearly had a vendetta against each other stemming from earlier battles, and neither wanted to listen to me at all. At one point in the match, I simply wandered to the corner and let the two savages tear at each other. I knew I had blown it.

Or so I thought. Tendler, amazingly, was pleased by my performance, and even asked if I'd be available for some additional assignments. Even Apter thought I did a decent job. But it's doubtful I'll do it again.

Why? After years of criticizing wrestling's arbiters, I now realize they have an incredibly hard task. The ones who have risen to the top, like Kroll, Young, and Miller, actually deserve *more* credit than they ever seem to get. They've proven their worth by being bastions of integrity and skill even though they're surrounded by the world's most savage, egotistical athletes every night.

Let Young and Kroll argue with those monsters. Give me the safety of my desk and computer terminal. Apter had a right to laugh—being a referee may be the hardest job in sports. It certainly was too much for me. □

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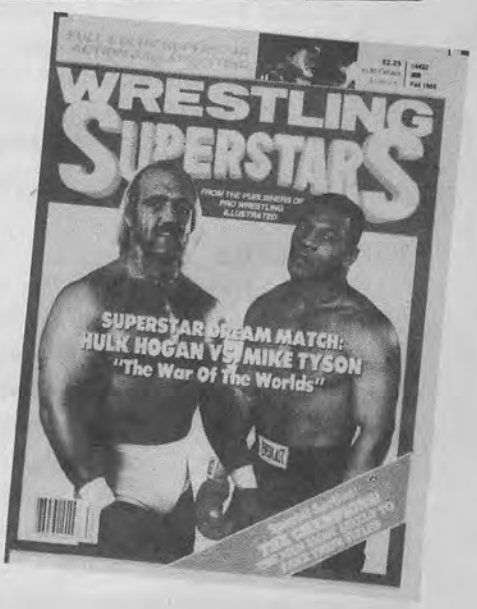

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 7)

I've seen men like Ricky Rice, Jim Brunzell, Kevin Von Erich, Ricky Morton, and Robert Gibson use the dropkick not only to stun, but to achieve a clean pinfall.

One man whose dropkick has been ignored is Road Warrior Hawk. Although he weighs 280 pounds, he can execute the standing dropkick as well as any wrestler in the business. Maybe even better! I've seen Hawk dropkick the 6'5" Warlord. Any man who can dropkick such a giant from a standing position deserves to be recognized.

To me, Road Warrior Hawk has one of the best dropkicks in the sport.

ERIC COOPER
Queens, NY

TAYLOR-MADE

I greatly appreciate your *"Sports Review* Interview" with Terry Taylor (October 1988). I'm a fan of World Class, and I really thought Terry would enter the WWF and have immediate success. Sadly, I was wrong.

I understand that the WWF is often tough on newcomers, but Terry is no rookie. He's a former World Class champion. Unfortunately, that seems to count for nothing in the WWF. I don't understand why Terry is not getting the matches he deserves and is trapped wrestling the WWF's lesser competitors. And you know what they say: "You're only as good as your opponent." I'm afraid Taylor's skills will atrophy through disuse in the WWF.

Terry is no fan favorite, but I think he's a great wrestler. I think he's right when he says that he can win Savage's belt. But I'm sure the WWF won't grant him the decency of a title shot. They're worried that if he wins, they won't be able to draw Savage-sized crowds.

Until Terry gets a little more recognition in the WWF, he will not get more important matches. But until he gets more important matches, he won't get recognition in the WWF. That's a painful Catch-22, and it seems that Terry Taylor will be trapped for a few more months. Too bad, because talent like his is Taylor-made for the WWF.

LISA SIMON
Houston

Although Terry Taylor has plenty of talent to make it big in the WWF, Lisa Simon fears that he will not get enough title shots to capitalize on his skills.

LET 'EM ROAR

This is just a quick note to thank you for your great October 1988 special section, "Wrestling's Hot Young Lions." Even though I don't like many of the wrestlers you featured, it still stood out as one of the finest *Sports Review* special sections in recent months.

Keep 'em coming, folks!

RICHARD LEVINE
New York

BEEWARE!

In my opinion, The Killer Bees are the greatest tag team in wrestling today. Brian Blair's scientific knowledge of the sport and Jim Brunzell's dropkick combine to make them *the* tag team to beat in the WWF.

Tag team wrestling is just that: "tag *team.*" Partners have to work well *together.* No team works faster and bet-

(Continued on page 44)

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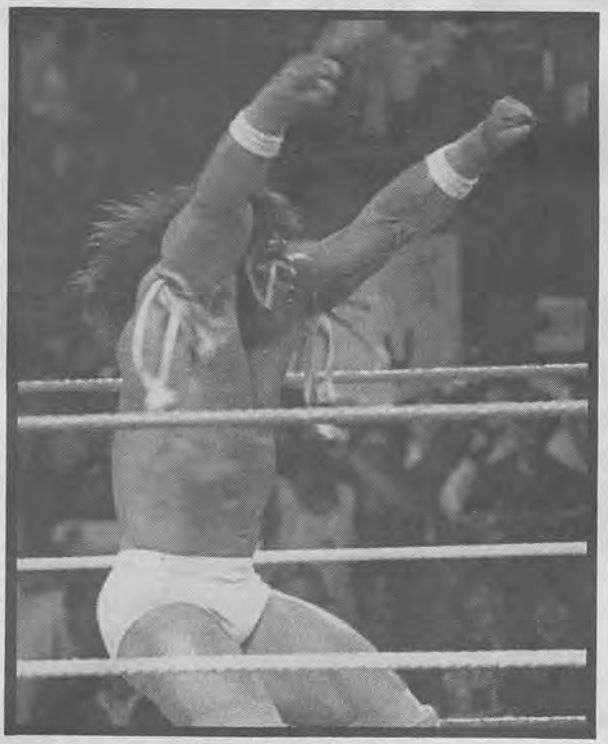

SPECIAL ISSUE
BONUS FULL-COLOR SECTION
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OF A SUPER SUMMER

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Exclusive coverage of **MEGABUCKS** vs. **MEGAPOWERS** . . . **TULLY BLANCHARD** & **ARN ANDERSON** take on **THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS** . . . **AUSTIN IDOL** declares: "I don't want **JERRY LAWLER'S** belt, I want his crown!" . . . Exclusive "Q & A" interview with **RICK MORTON** . . . Introducing **STEVEN CASEY** . . . "Spotlight" on **RICK RUDE**

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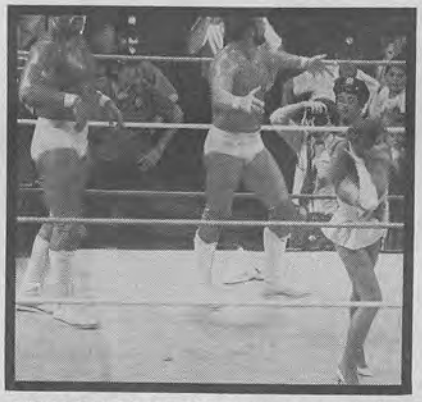

The **HOGAN-SAVAGE-ELIZABETH** triangle: Will the Megawoman destroy the Megapowers?

THE ROAD WARRIORS' shocking claim: "We'll win the NWA World belts at Starrcade—or we'll retire!"

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in the January 1989 issue of
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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 42)

B. Brian Blair of The Killer Bees chases Jim Neidhart. With or without their masks, the Bees are the finest team in the WWF, writes Jeff Chard.

ter than The Killer Bees—especially with their masks!

JEFF CHARD
Cambridge, Ontario

APTER HAS A POINT

After reading your new feature "Point/Counterpoint" (October 1988), I am convinced that Bill Apter has a point—the one on his head!

In his "Point" section, Apter said that officials were correct in stopping Lex Luger's title match with Ric Flair at the Baltimore Great American Bash. I was very surprised to read this from a man like Apter, a man who's made wrestling his life. It seems to me that Apter has always been an outspoken crusader for wrestling justice, both for rulebreakers *and* fan favorites.

But maybe Apter has cracked or something. Saying that Luger should have walked over to the Maryland State Athletic Commissioner and offered his thanks for preserving his health is ridiculous. Shame on you, Apter. Luger should have walked over and punched that bureaucrat right in the nose!

Dave Rosenbaum's "Counterpoint" was much more well thought out. Rosenbaum seemed to understand the spirit of wrestling and the intense athletic competition it breeds. Why Apter ignored this is completely beyond me.

I'd like to see more "Point/Counterpoint." But next time, leave Apter out. His points, like his insights, have certainly dulled.

ERIC LOWERY
Burlington, VT

THE REAL ADONIS

It is very encouraging to see so many nice articles on the late Adrian Adonis in your fine family of publications. Your October 1988 issue of *Sports Review-Wrestling* led the way. Speaking as one of Adonis' many fans and also as someone fortunate enough to have met him, I thank you. I am pleased that now most of the wrestling crowd will know Adrian as he was *really* like, not the silly farce he played in the WWF.

The WWF first came to my area in December 1983. Prior to this, I had to drive hundreds of miles north to see Mr. Adonis. Adrian was what brought me to WWF matches and kept me coming.

The WWF's refusal to acknowledge his death is why *I'm* refusing to spend another dime on their matches. After Adrian turned himself into a clown in the WWF circus, they deserted him. Now they can't hurt him anymore, but they are hurting his fans who know the truth.

It's time for the fans to hurt them back.

CHERYL ROBERTSON
St. Ann, MO□

Bob Orton chats with Adrian Adonis. After Adonis died, the WWF did not recognize his accomplishments. That angered Cheryl Robertson, a longtime Adonis fan.

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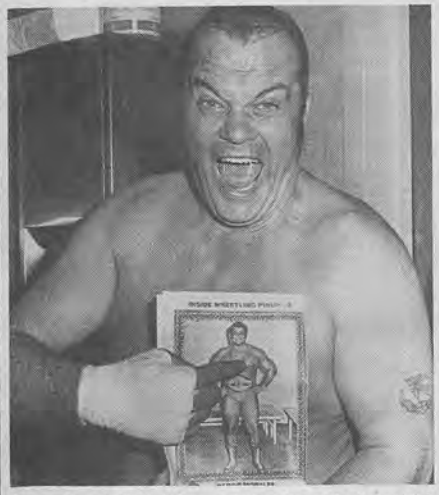
(Continued from page 14)

Johnny Weaver; 4—Kenji Shibuya & Haru Sasaki; 5—The Medics; 6—The Assassins; 7—Ole & Gene Anderson; 8—Miguel Perez & Pete Sanchez; 9—George & Sandy Scott; 10—Stan & Paul Vachon.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1973

THE WWF EXPERIENCED a major shakeup as its two major titles changed hands ... Heartpunch expert Stan Stasiak dethroned WWF champion Pedro Morales on December 1 at the Philadelphia Arena, ending Pedro's 22-month title reign. Stasiak



Stan Stasiak holds a magazine photo of his hated rival, Pedro Morales. In 1973, Stasiak beat Morales for the WWF title.

held the championship only one week before being beaten by former champion Bruno Sammartino in Madison Square Garden ... Tony Garea regained a share of the WWF tag team championship with a new partner, Dean Ho. Garea and Haystacks Calhoun had lost the belts to Mr. Fuji and Toru Tanaka a month earlier. After a month of training, Garea and Ho were granted a non-title match on television by the Japanese champions, which they won. The

"The Golden Greek" John Tolos executes a surfboard on Victor Rivera. So much blood was shed in this feud that doctors feared for these men's lives.

following week, Garea and Ho won the title ... Rookie referee Bobby Lane was attacked by Cyclone Negro during Negro's match with Dario Romero. The ref was bodyslammed and piledrived by the wrestler ... The West Coast feud between "The Golden Greek" John Tolos and Victor Rivera continued. Doctors warned both wrestlers that their brutal bloodbaths would not only ruin their careers, but also their lives ... After firing Miss Sherri, Bobby Shane, in conjunction with *The Wrestler*, ran a contest to find a new valet. The winner: Mary Davidson of Savannah, Georgia ... A bloody Russian chain match punctuated a brutal Florida feud between Boris Malenko and Dusty Rhodes ... NWA RATINGS: 1—Jack Brisco; 2—Terry Funk; 3—Paul Jones; 4—Dory Funk Jr.; 5—The Sheik; 6—Pat Patterson; 7—Gene Kiniski; 8—Dutch Savage; 9—Harley Race; 10—Tim Woods. AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Graham; 3—Crusher; 4—Ray Stevens; 5—Billy Robinson; 6—Wahoo McDaniel; 7—Ivan Koloff; 8—Nick Bockwinkel; 9—Red Bastien; 10—Ken Patera. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Pedro Morales; 3—Chief Jay Strongbow; 4—Stan Stasiak; 5—Don Leo Jonathan; 6—Nikolai Volkoff; 7—Blackjack Lanza; 8—Gorilla Monsoon; 9—Tony Garea; 10—Dean Ho. TAG TEAMS: 1—Tony Marino & Fred Curry; 2—Dean Ho & Tony Garea; 3—Bruno Sammartino & Bruiser; 4—The Fabulous Kangaroos; 5—Dutch Savage & Jimmy Snuka; 6—Bobby Shane & Gorgeous George Jr.; 7—The LeDuc Brothers; 8—Lord Al Hays & Roger Kirby; 9—Mike George & Jim Brunzell; 10—Victor Rivera & Raul Mata.

(Continued on page 48)

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

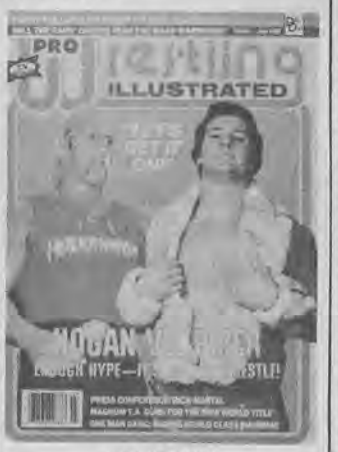
November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.



JULY 1985

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita**, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.**, Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage**, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre**, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair**, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

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February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage**, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre**, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan**, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre**, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan**, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. **Sting**, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan**, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Four Horsemen**, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

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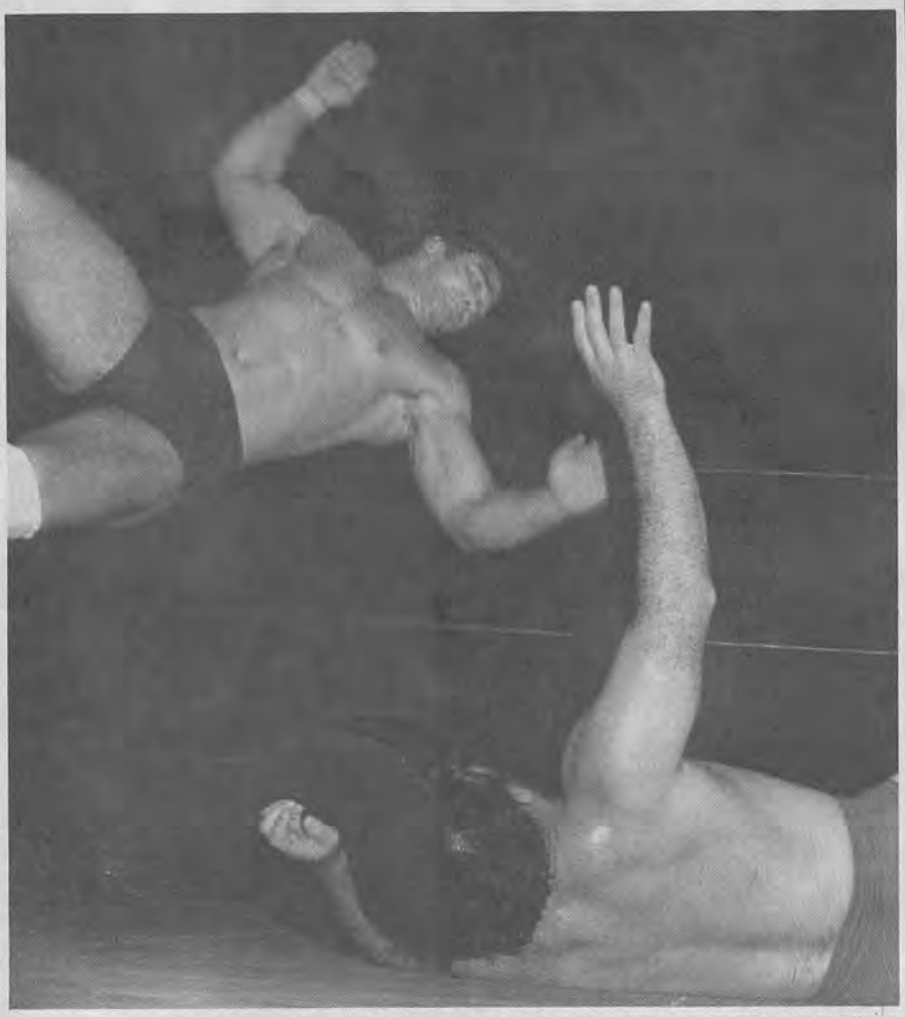
(Continued from page 46)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1978

AWA CHAMPION NICK Bockwinkel warned Jim Brunzell that his association with Verne and Greg Gagne would ruin his professional wrestling career . . . WWF president Willie Gilzenberg died at age 77 . . . For the first time in his career, Andre the Giant demanded a title shot. NWA

Andre the Giant chinlocks Harley Race. In 1978, for the first time in his career, the Giant demanded a world title shot.

World champion Harley Race said he would consider it . . . Former WWF champion Superstar Billy Graham trained for a match against Missouri State titlist Dick the Bruiser . . . David and Kevin Von Erich established a loyal following in St. Louis as they began appearing at the Kiel Auditorium in singles and tag team competition . . . Jimmy Snuka, appearing in the Mid-Atlantic area, expressed a desire to wrestle for Ric Flair's U.S. title . . . Tag team partners Rick Steamboat and



Rick Steamboat dives on Paul Jones. They had been tag team partners in 1978, but split up that year in a dispute over prize money that was up for grabs in a battle royal.

Paul Jones split up after they found themselves to be the last two men in the ring during a battle royal. Steamboat wanted to split the prize money, but Jones wanted it all, so the two fought for the prize. Jones bloodied Steamboat, spit on him, and then left the ring . . . The Masked Superstar extended newly crowned Georgia champion Mr. Wrestling II to a one-hour time-limit draw . . . NWA RATINGS: 1—Harley Race; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Ric Flair; 4—Ken Patera; 5—Dick Slater; 6—Mr. Wrestling II; 7—Rick Steamboat; 8—Jack Brisco; 9—Bruiser; 10—Gino Hernandez. AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Verne Gagne; 4—Crusher; 5—Greg Gagne; 6—Jim Brunzell; 7—Ray Stevens; 8—Pat Patterson; 9—Super Destroyer II; 10—Bobby Duncum. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Peter Maivia; 4—Ivan Koloff; 5—Dusty Rhodes; 6—Ivan Putski; 7—Ernie Ladd; 8—Chief Jay Strongbow; 9—Victor Rivera; 10—Spiros Arion. TAG TEAMS: 1—Pat Patterson & Ray Stevens; 2—Greg Valentine & Baron Von Raschke; 3—Tony Garea & Larry Zbyszko; 4—The Valiant Brothers; 5—Dory Funk Jr. & Terry Funk; 6—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell; 7—Kevin & David Von Erich; 8—Pak Song & Mr. Uganda; 9—Black Gordman & Goliath; 10—Victor Rivera & Spiros Arion.

(Continued on page 50)

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Wrestling

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September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.
February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.
May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.
October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.
January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.
September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.
November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.
December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.
March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.
October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.
December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.
January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.
February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.
March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.
April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.
May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.
June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.
July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.
October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.
November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.
December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.
January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.
February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.
March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.
April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.
May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.
July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourny.
August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!
December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*, Valentine.
February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.
May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A, Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

APRIL 1986

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourny.
October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.
November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny.
January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
February 1987/Road Warriors,Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.
March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.
May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny.
November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.
December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card
January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
April 1988/1987 In Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.
June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.
July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.
September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.
October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.

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(Continued from page 48)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1983

RIC FLAIR ENDED Harley Race's seventh and final NWA World title reign with a pinfall victory on Thanksgiving night at Starrcade '83 in Greensboro, North Carolina, the first of the big "SuperCards" that would later include WrestleMania and the Von Erich Parade of Champions. It was also the first time that the NWA title changed hands in a cage. Also on the card, Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood recaptured the NWA World tag team belts from Jack and Jerry Brisco . . . In other Thanksgiving spectaculars, Pez Whatley and Butch Reed defeated Randy Savage and Magnum T.A. in the final of a $25,000 tag team tournament at The Omni in Atlanta, and Kerry Von Erich forced Michael Hayes out of Texas for one year by pinning him at the "Star Wars" card in Dallas . . . The Iron Sheik won the WWF title from Bob Backlund on December 26 in Madison Square Garden, ending Backlund's five-year 10-month reign, the second-longest in WWF history. Backlund's manager, Arnold Skaaland, threw in the towel as Backlund was caught in the Sheik's dreaded "camel clutch" . . . There was another WWF title change on November 15 as Rocky Johnson and Tony Atlas won the tag team title from The Samoans in Allentown, Pennsylvania . . . December was a big month for Dick Slater; he won the Mid-Atlantic title from Rufus R. Jones and the U.S. belt from Greg Valentine . . . Kevin Sullivan threw a bottle of ink at Dusty Rhodes' sister as Dusty was preparing to sign for a title match against Ric Flair. Sullivan, who had been banned from wrestling in Florida, was subsequently banned from two other areas, but the vengeful Dusty demanded that the ban be lifted and said he wouldn't wrestle again until it was . . . NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Dick Slater; 3—Ted DiBiase; 4—David Von Erich; 5—Mike Rotundo; 6—Harley Race; 7—Ron Bass; 8—Greg Valentine; 9—Carlos Colon; 10—Chris Adams. AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Mad Dog Vachon; 3—Billy Robinson; 4—Brad Rheingans; 5—Mr. Saito; 6—Ken Patera; 7—Blackjack Lanza; 8—Jerry Lawler; 9—Superstar Graham; 10—Crusher Blackwell. WWF RATINGS: 1—The Iron Sheik; 2—Bob Backlund; 3—Magnificent Muraco; 4—Paul Orndorff; 5—Jimmy Snuka; 6—Masked Superstar; 7—Tito Santana; 8—Sgt. Slaughter; 9—Rocky Johnson; 10—Tony Atlas. TAG TEAMS: 1—Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood; 2—Ken Patera & Crusher Blackwell; 3—The Von Erichs; 4—Brett & Buzz Sawyer; 5—Dusty Rhodes & Blackjack Mulligan; 6—Rocky Johnson & Tony Atlas; 7—Mr. Wrestling II & Magnum T.A.; 8—Steve Keirn & Stan Lane; 9—Tony Parisi & Gino Brito; 10—The Masked Medics. □

Kevin Sullivan readies a chop for Dusty Rhodes. They feuded bitterly in 1983 after Sullivan threw ink at Dusty's sister. These two rivals are still feuding today, and neither man is letting up.

Ric Flair executes a flying bodypress on Harley Race in their NWA World championship cage match at the first Starrcade in 1983. Flair regained the title from Race, marking the beginning of his second NWA reign.

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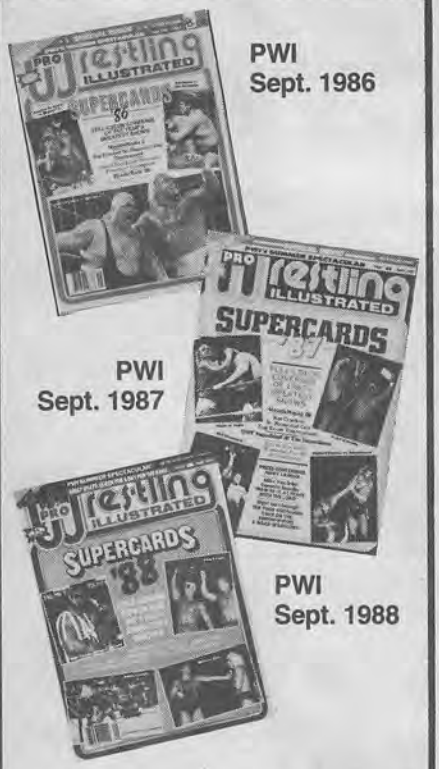

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INQUIRING REPORTER

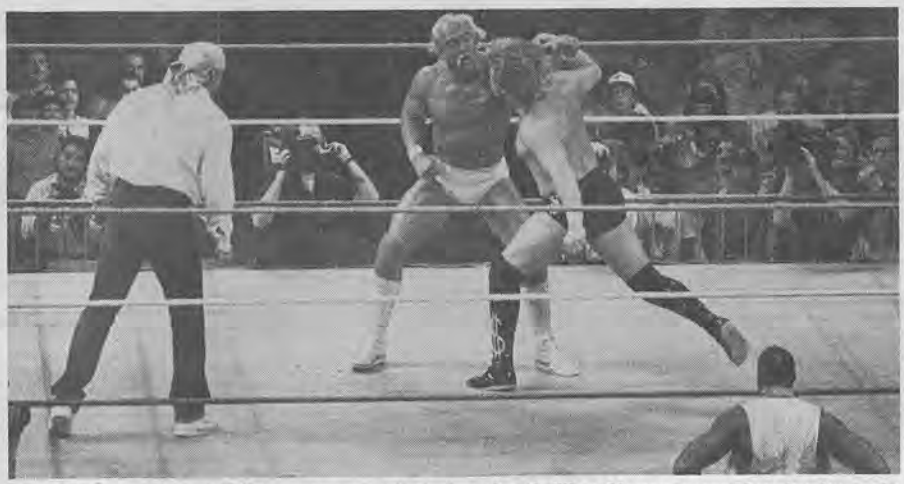
(Continued from page 12)

match of night was The British Bulldogs against The Rougeaus. This match featured honest, high-flying action—and no nonsense. That's the way it ought to be. Good wrestling and honest competition, not a burlesque show."

Walt Weyler, Edina, MN: "I loved it! I absolutely loved it! I found it enjoyable from the moment it started until the moment it ended. The matches were first-rate, and the level of fan intensity was noticeable even over the airwaves. That's why I love the WWF. Beneath all the glitter and the showmanship (of which I also approve), they never fail to please the fans. No other federation's broadcasts give fans their money's worth like the WWF. I appreciate that."

Gary Smith, New York: "A sold-out Garden, two championships on the line, and all the talent of a great wrestling federation. What more could a fan ask for? I know I enjoyed the show immensely. One of my favorite matches (and one that many fans may not notice) was the Big Bossman-Koko B. Ware match. In it, Bossman showed impressive stamina in standing up to the relentless and energetic aerial star. I think this more than any of his previous matches showed fans that the Big Bossman has arrived! The rest of the WWF had better keep on the right side of the law, or else this burly corrections officer will be forced to do his duty!"

Carol Williams, Oklahoma City: "I was lukewarm on the whole thing. There were some good matches, but certainly nothing unexpected. So what if Ultimate Warrior smashed The Honky Tonk Man? The writing had been on the wall for weeks that Honky was going to lose. He got what he deserved. The Megapowers-Megabucks centerpiece certainly didn't live up to my expectations. Andre the Giant is an aging rustbucket of a man. Besides, all four of these guys have wrestled so many times before that it's all getting dull. There were some good preliminary matches, but I just wasn't all that excited."



Hulk Hogan and Ted DiBiase square off during the thrilling Megapowers-Megabucks main event as special referee Jesse Ventura checks for illegalities.

Jackson Joyner, Selma, AL: "I darn near split a gut trying to keep on my seat from all the excitement! We had some of the boys over for a pay-per-view party, and we got so caught up in the action we never got a chance to eat the chicken and ziti! I'm *still* eatin' the leftovers! Yeah, that show was one of the better shows I've seen in months. All the great feuds and rivalries were on center stage. I can't wait to see what war starts between Ultimate Warrior and The Honky Tonk Man! And the Megapowers-Megabucks feud is sure to make the fall season exciting." ☐

INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 22)

***will* gain my revenge, even if it takes the very last drop of my blood to do it. Perhaps I will team with Nikta, perhaps not. But I will accomplish my mission, even if I have to do it alone.**

Q: You may not be *totally* alone on your mission. I've talked to a host of fans who are already saying they are going to back you in your wars against Jones.

A: That is very confusing. I have been a professional wrestler in this country for more than 27 years. The fans have never supported me in any way, and I have never coveted their support. These are the same people who were screaming at me just weeks ago, telling me to retire. If they rally to my side against Jones, it will be of their choosing. But these fans are very strange creatures. I cannot figure out why they do what they do.

Q: What are *you* going to do now? How will you implement your war against Jones?

A: I will start by using this forum to issue a challenge to my former manager. Jones, I want a match against you. You were once a world-class wrestler. I will give you an opportunity to prove it against me in the ring, but I don't think you are man enough to do it. I think you are nothing but a coward. Then, when I am finished with you, I will defeat the Assassins one by one, sending them back to Soviet Union in shame. All I require is chance to meet them when they are facing me, not hitting me from behind with chain.

Q: Ivan, thank you for this interview, and good luck against Jones and his men.

A: In a way, I thank you, American journalist. It makes Koloff feel better to talk about my hatred for Paul Jones. I now feel like I have taken my first step against the men who tried to end my career. The next step will be *their* demise. □

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ANDRE THE GIANT

(Continued from page 31)

Hulk Hogan stands over the fallen Giant. In 1987, Andre turned bad because he was jealous of Hogan's success and wanted a World title shot. But now he may turn back to being a fan favorite because of his dissatisfaction with Ted DiBiase and Bobby Heenan.

were at ringside could clearly hear Andre screaming "Count! Count!" to Jesse Ventura, the spellbound referee.

But Jesse did not continue to count out The Megapowers. As Andre's disgust increased, Ventura's concentration decreased. Professionalism was in short supply, and Andre's demand for it was great.

The Giant's wrath was not only directed toward the special referee. His partner, the usually professional DiBiase, was also taken in by the pleasurable distraction, as was his manager, Heenan, and DiBiase's bodyguard, Virgil. No matter how loudly the Giant yelled "Hey! Wrestle!" to "The Million-Dollar Man," DiBiase's attention could not be chiseled away from the legs of Elizabeth. Even the most violent enemy of Andre the Giant must have felt sympathy for the huge grappler. Even those biased minds must have understood what it feels like when no one can hear your screams.

Within seconds, The Megapowers—satisfied that their ploy had worked—stormed back onto the offensive. A flying elbow from Savage sent Andre careening from the ring. With the two-on-one advantage, Hogan and Savage punished DiBiase before recording the pin moments later.

Those who know Andre understand his disappointment. Andre never wanted to be a rulebreaker. He was forced by circumstances to join the Heenan family in 1987 in an attempt to quench the burning jealousy he had for Hulk Hogan. He was forced to throw away the popularity that made him the second most beloved wrestler in the WWF.

He threw it all away because Andre didn't want to settle for second place. Now, Andre is ready for another change. The high-priced associates who welcomed him in 1987 and promised him a World title have betrayed him. Winning the SummerSlam main event would have given Andre a measure of revenge. But to do so, all he needed a little help from his friends.

That help never came. In its place was manipulation and abandonment. Both DiBiase and Heenan used Andre for their own selfish purposes, completely ambivalent to their "friend's" giant-sized ambitions.

If anybody understands this now, it's Andre. While he was staring at the transfixed DiBiase, Heenan, Virgil, and Ventura, Andre was gazing not at the men who were going to help him gain his revenge over Hogan; he was looking at his mistake, the glaring error of judgment that threw him in with these men. Andre was facing the fact that it's time to change direction.

***

"Hey! Wrestle!" The unheeded shouts still reverberate around the empty Garden. They ring out like the last call of a drowning man, of an isolated man without compatriots to lend support. Andre the Giant needed that support, but all he found was forgotten objectives. The Megabucks—a team with an obsession for ring professionalism—was clearly suffering from the one thing that imperils all tag teams: different individual goals. Andre thought his goal matched his partner's: to crush The Megapowers.

Unfortunately for him, DiBiase's love of money is matched only by his love of self, the most dangerous emotion for a tag team member. While Andre sought only the WWF World title, DiBiase craved the fame and fortune that accompanies it. To Andre, the vast abyss in between these two goals indicates the need to make a change.

And it's a change that could make Andre the Giant a favorite once again. □

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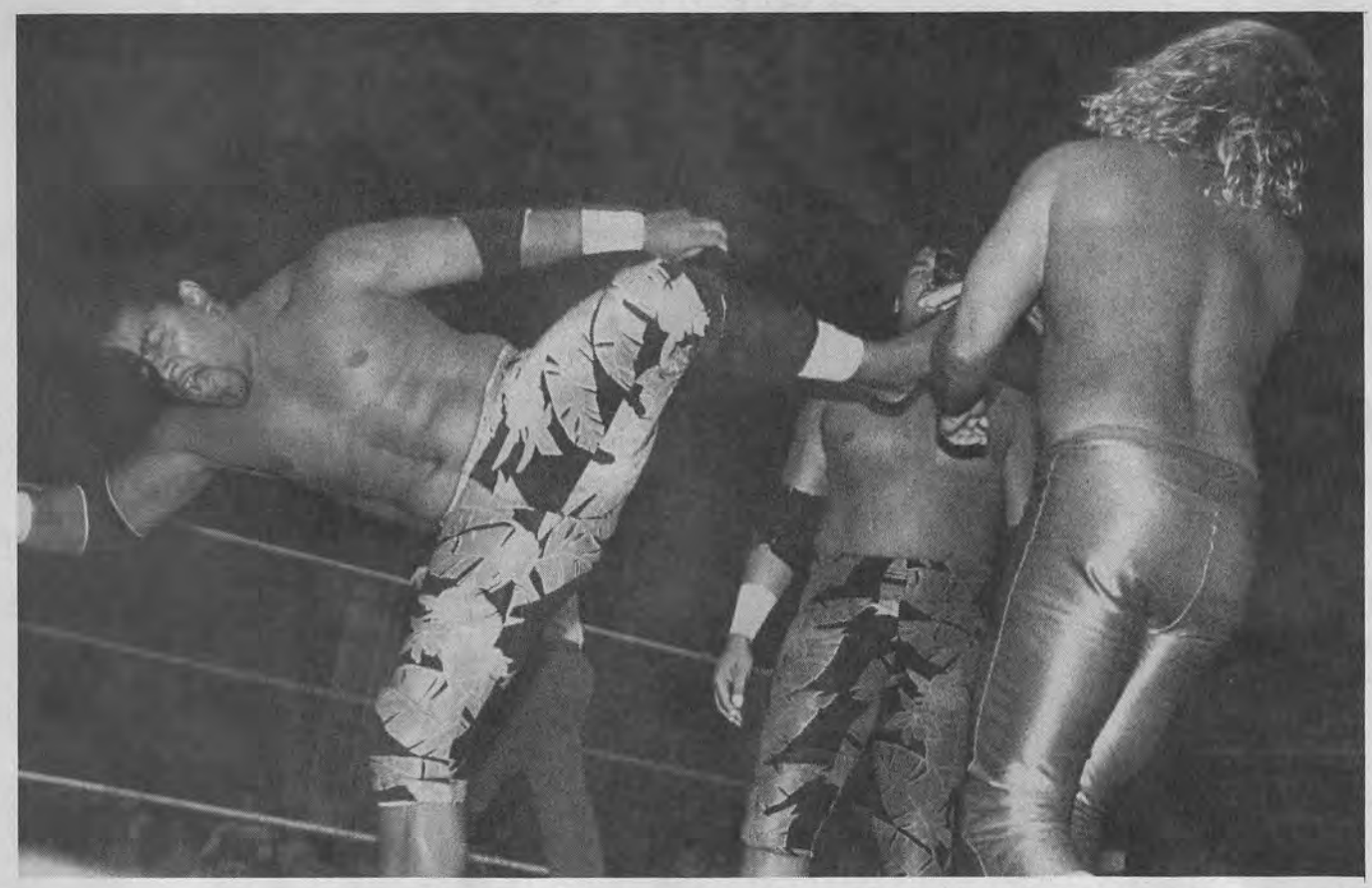
BUDDY ROBERTS

(Continued from page 33)



Fatu sidekicks Hayes (above), who retaliates with an elbowdrop (left). Not content with winning the World Class tag team title, Buddy Roberts wants his Samoans to punish Michael Hayes. Roberts blames Hayes for breaking up The Freebirds.

Roberts sneak-attacked Hayes and beat him unconscious during an interview, prompting the popular wrestler and rock star to re-evaluate his position on the feud with his former mate.

"This is about as much of Buddy's idiocy as I'm gonna take," complained Hayes after he was carried back to the dressing room. "Since Terry is busy right now, I'm gonna call on an ol' pal of mine. Those Samoans are the toughest team to come around here in a long time, but sensational Steve Cox and myself are gonna kick their loathsome behinds—and Buddy's—all over the Lone Star State. Those chumps will be headin' back to the islands any day now."

Hayes was correct about one thing—the SST is *very* tough. Samu is a 260-pound former Canadian International champion famous for his assortment of karate-derived offensive maneuvers, particularly his devastating side kicks. Fatu is well-known for his tag team with The Tonga Kid, as well as his death-defying leaps from the top turnbuckle. When Roberts saw them in action, he knew that he was also viewing his own future.

"It was a great honor when Buddy became our manager," claims Samu. "Buddy Roberts is a legendary name in World Class wrestling. He said he would make us wealthy if we can cripple this Hayes. He has already made us champions. Now, we have to show our gratitude to our new mentor. We will defeat Hayes and Cox and leave them for dead."

The early battles between the Samoans and Hayes and Cox suggest that such a threat could soon actually become a reality. All four men have fought like animals, but there is a dangerous difference when either Samu or Fatu get in the ring to face Hayes. Attempts at gaining an advantage suddenly become attempts to cripple. Match strategies are thrown to the

wind as the Samoans bite, gouge, and kick Hayes with sadistic fury.

"It's not enough just to pin Hayes," claims Roberts with a cruel laugh. "I want to see broken legs and broken arms. Eyes torn from their sockets. Blood on the mat. I won't rest until it happens."

Cox, a former pro football player who has seen his share of battles both in and out of the ring, admits he wasn't quite prepared for the ferocity of the situation when he arrived in World Class.

"In every match, those Samoans are literally trying to kill Michael," said Cox, shaking his head. "They're plenty rough when they face me, but when Hayes gets in the ring, Roberts lets out a scream, and Fatu and Samu suddenly become *homicidal.* This is an very scary situation."

It's also a situation that shows no signs of abating anytime soon. In match after match, the Samoans tear at Hayes with unbridled frenzy, seemingly not caring about the World Class disqualification rules that could cost them their tag title. The only thing that matters is destroying Hayes.

"Damn, I wish Buddy would come to his senses," admits Hayes. "We're not partners anymore—hell, that's part of history, and I can't change it. I'd like to pursue other matters, but that towheaded idiot won't let me do it. This is getting frustrating."

If Hayes is frustrated, imagine how World Class officials feel. Matchmaker Frank Dusek has begged Roberts to sign his men to matches against other teams, but Roberts refuses to budge. "Hayes is a traitor," says Roberts. "As manager of the tag team champions, I have the final say when contracts are signed. I want Hayes and Hayes only!"

After months of battling Roberts and his men, Hayes had better be prepared for the worst. The Samoan Swat Team may be the only champions in wrestling whose main focus does *not* concern retaining their belts. All Buddy Roberts wants to do is drive Hayes out wrestling.

Title or not, some things never seem to change. □

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WINTER 1987/Color pinup: Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

SPRING 1988/Color pinup: Elizabeth. **Stories include:** Hennig, Koloff, Savage, Strike Force, Warriors, Andre-Hogan.

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JIMMY HART

(Continued from page 37)

Hart's megaphone isn't going to protect him from Neidhart's wrath (above). Neidhart overmatches Honky Tonk in a test of strength (below).

took a hike, he knew he was in trouble."

Still, Hart was able to keep his mind on getting Honky Tonk through a series of grueling Intercontinental title defenses against Randy Savage and Brutus Beefcake. He reveled in confounding everyone's expectations about the guitar-toting Elvis impersonator. Thus, on August 2, 1988, Hart celebrated wildly when Honky Tonk became the longest-reigning I-C champion in history.

Twenty-seven days later, that championship reign also came to an end as The Ultimate Warrior thrashed Honky Tonk to win the belt at SummerSlam 88. Again, Hart's managerial acumen was called into question. When Beefcake, the scheduled opponent, was forced to back out of the match after Ron Bass had injured him, Honky Tonk declared that he would wrestle *anyone* the WWF found worthy of a title shot. But for some reason, he seemed surprised that Ultimate Warrior was named his opponent.

"I don't think they were surprised at all," Apter said. "Hart knows all of Honky Tonk's potential opponents in advance. I just think they were *afraid* of the Warrior, so they tried to block him out of their thinking. It was a disastrous move on Jimmy's part. His fears that Honky might lose the title made him forget the things that make him a great manager."

Since Honky Tonk's defeat, Hart has made some moves to get back on top. He has signed Honky for a series of rematches with Ultimate Warrior, and has replaced The Hart Foundation with Jacques and Raymond Rougeau. The result is a stable that is a mixed bag at best: Although the Rougeaus have shown flashes of brilliance against the Foundation, Honky Tonk is given little chance of regaining the I-C belt from Ultimate.

"Sure, Honky was given little or no chance of defeating Steamboat, but things are different now," says Sidney Blann, an independent WWF analyst. "He's never faced a powerhouse like Ultimate. As much respect as I have for Jimmy Hart's abilities, I don't think he can get Honky the belt back.

"The Rougeaus are a different story entirely," Blann continued. "Jacques and Raymond are tremendous scientific wrestlers, much like Bret Hart, and they aren't afraid to brawl. I expect Hart's tag team expertise to make The Rougeaus major contenders within a matter of weeks."

But Blann adds a caution.

"It will be almost impossible for them to get a shot at Demolition, because Demolition is also a rule-breaking team. That's a big problem for Hart. He needs to act quickly to restore the public's confidence—as well as his own—in his managerial skill."

Jimmy Hart has reached a critical moment in his career. How he responds over the next few crucial months will determine his place in history forever. □

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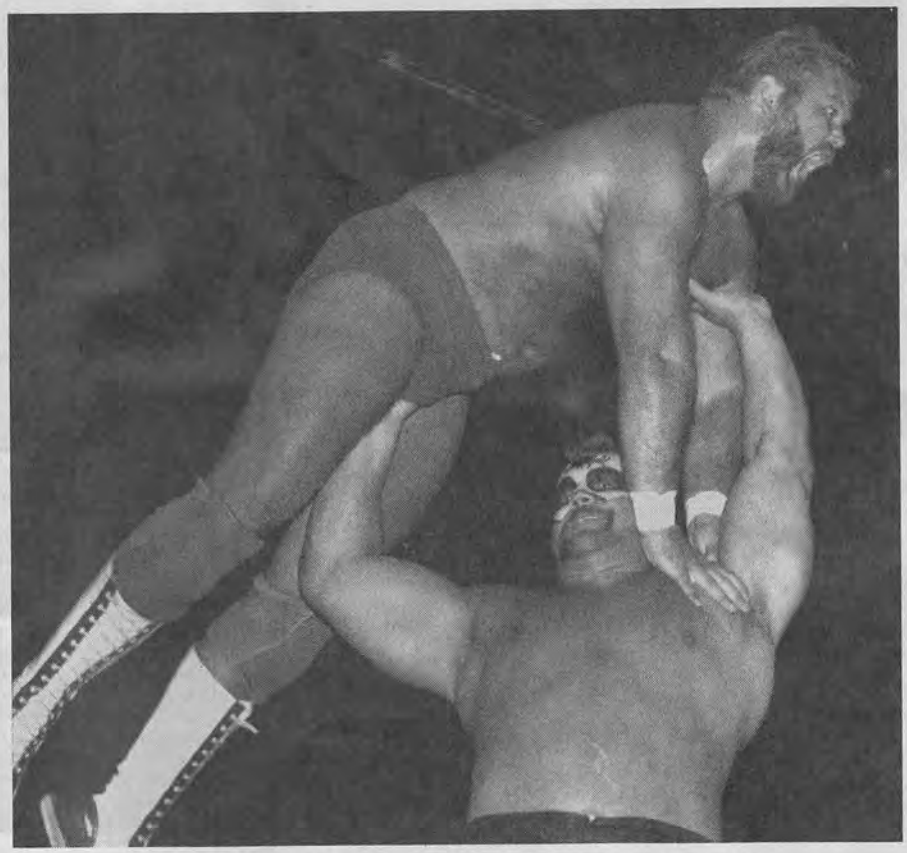
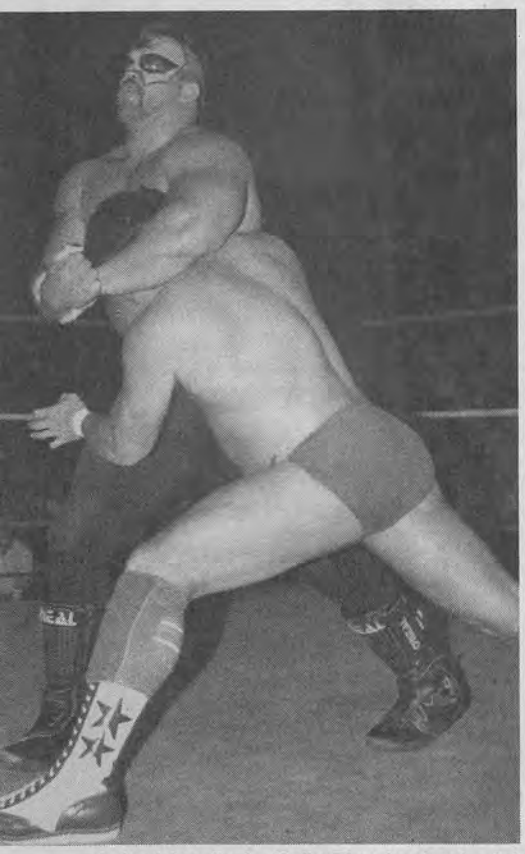
ROAD WARRIORS

(Continued from page 35)



Hawk tosses Ric Flair to the mat (above left); Animal press-slams Arn Anderson (above right). The Warriors' main goal is not winning the tag team title, it's destroying the Horsemen.



Animal headlocks Tully Blanchard, who left the NWA for the WWF.

tremely lucky to survive the impact of this team. The Warriors may be more interested in going after Flair's World title and Windham's U.S. belt than in capturing the World tag title from The Midnight Express!

"It's not enough for us that Blanchard and Anderson are gone," said an angry Animal. "The Four Horsemen have caused us a lot of pain in the past, and they've been a burden to our six-man championship partner, our main man Dusty Rhodes. Only Flair and Windham are left, eh? That's all right by us. We'll cripple 'em, and then there will be *no* Horsemen!"

"That's right," echoed Hawk. "We started this war against The Four Horsemen, and we're gonna finish it. We don't care if there are two Horsemen, four Horsemen, or 1,000 Horsemen. If Flair, Windham, and Dillon are the only Horsemen left, then they're marked men!"

The Warriors' desires are confusing many wrestling experts, who believe the World title should be the Warriors' only goal. Any other matches are a mistake, according to these opinions.

"Hawk and Animal are the finest tag team of the 1980s," claims Bill Apter, who has seen almost every tag team of the past two decades. "They've redefined tag team wrestling. But many fans believe they have become also-rans since they haven't held a world title in over three years. They should *demand* matches against The Midnight Express. By wrestling Flair and Windham, they're losing sight of their most important goal—to be known worldwide as the greatest team of *all* time."

The Warriors' attitudes are also confusing Flair and Windham,

who can't fathom why Animal and Hawk are dead set on ending their careers.

"I guess it's logical that any wrestler worth his salt would want a shot at the World title or the U.S. belt," said Flair, currently in his fifth title reign. "But why The Road Warriors would want us at this particular time is a mystery. If they had any brains, they'd be after the tag title. But if it's a fight they want, Barry and myself will be more than happy to put them out of action for good. Then, *we'll* be famous for being the men who defeated those overrated clowns."

"Flair said *that?*" responded Ellering. "That so-called champion should realize he's in enough hot water with my men before making such careless comments. The Four Horsemen are about to become history, thanks to The Legion of Doom. We owe it to those cheating, lying fools."

The ruination of the Horsemen may not be what The Road Warriors owe their millions of fans, who have waited patiently for Hawk and Animal to regain the glory that only a world title can provide. Hawk insists those fans have nothing to worry about.

"I know a lot of people think we're long overdue," he said. "But The Four Horsemen have been the scourge of the NWA for too long. We wanna make Flair and Windham pay for the sins of Anderson and Blanchard. For right now, we need to teach James J. Dillon what it means to *really* be a champion, *then* we'll take care of those Midnight twerps. Murdering the Horsemen should be enough, don't you think?"

Enough for most teams. But is it enough for The Road Warriors? Perhaps not, but for now Windham and Flair should keep a close watch behind them. The Legion of Doom is vowing to put the final nail in the coffin of the legend of The Four Horsemen! □

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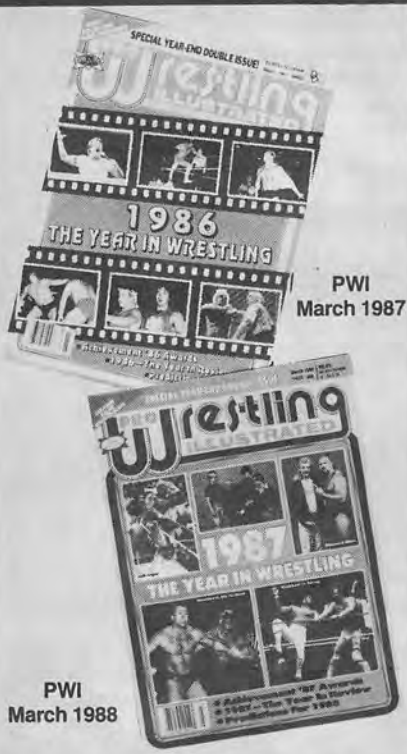

PWI March 1987

PWI March 1988

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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

us to have too much power," complained a perturbed Stan Lane. "There's no reason we couldn't have defended both of those titles, but now we'll prove that we are the greatest NWA World tag team champs of all time."

Anderson, Blanchard, and Horsemen manager James J. Dillon could not be reached for comment following the loss. Anderson and Blanchard had held the World title since April 20, when they won the belts after Barry Windham had turned against Lex Luger in Jacksonville, Florida. It was their second title reign. At press time, it was unknown whether Dillon will name new Horsemen to replace Anderson and Blanchard.

—Henry Baird

DALLAS, TX: The pressure of retaining the AWA World title seems to be taking its toll on Jerry Lawler as he continues his series of matches against World Class champion Kerry Von Erich.

Lawler had been wrestling in a strictly scientific fashion against Von Erich in bouts all over the country, but Lawler's attitude underwent a clear change on September 9 at Dallas' Sportatorium. Lawler came to the ring wearing two black gloves, one of which concealed a cast on his left hand, which he broke while playing softball in a charity game several days earlier.

Lawler grabbed the house microphone and blasted Von Erich for claiming that he had challenged Lawler to their series of belt-versus-belt matches. Lawler said that both WWF champion Randy Savage and NWA titleholder Ric Flair turned him down prior to his own challenge of Von Erich.

Von Erich seemingly was not angered by Lawler's comments, and he came to the ring, welcoming Lawler to Dallas and offering to shake his hand. Lawler refused, saying he had come to wrestle, not to make friends. As Lawler turned to go to his corner, Von Erich attempted to shake hands again, but Lawler sucker-punched him with a right hand, cutting open the Texan and knocking him out.

Surprisingly, Lawler attempted to take the World Class belt off Kerry, claiming he was now the double champion. World Class matchmaker Frank Dusek and referee Bronco Lubich grabbed the belt back from Lawler.

"This was a desperate action by a

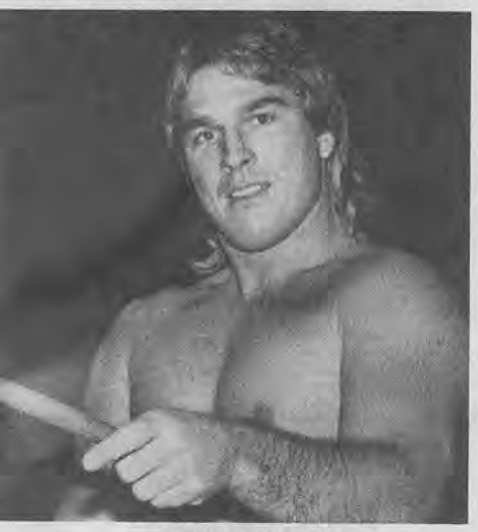
JERRY LAWLER VS. KERRY VON ERICH

desperate man," said Von Erich afterward. "Lawler has more than he can handle this time. He's crossed the line between healthy competition and downright unsportsmanlike conduct. The only way to settle this is a no-countout, no-disqualification, no-rules match with both belts on the line. That way, I can prove who the better man is without all these rules and stipulations bogging things down."

—James Washington

NEW YORK, NY: Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is the new manager of former World Class Texas champion Terry Taylor.

"Taylor believed he needed someone with Heenan's experience to guide him in the WWF," said a federation source. "Terry had a rough go of it here in his first few months,



TERRY TAYLOR

but now he believes he's ready for a title. With a stable that now includes Taylor, King Haku, and Andre the Giant, Heenan believes he is now the most powerful manager in the WWF."

In other WWF news, Jacques and Raymond Rougeau announced that they have named Jimmy Hart their new manager. The Rougeaus are currently embroiled in a feud with Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart, whom the infamous Hart managed to the WWF World tag team championship in 1987.

—Alison Corey □

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SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

Kerry Von Erich

TOP 10

1. **RANDY SAVAGE** — *245, Sarasota, FL* — **WWF World champion**
2. **RIC FLAIR** — *243, Minneapolis, MN* — **NWA World champion**
3. **JERRY LAWLER** — *234, Memphis, TN* — **AWA World champion**
4. **LEX LUGER** — *268, Chicago, IL* — **No. 2 contender: NWA title**
5. **TED DiBIASE** — *247, Omaha, NB* — **No. 2 contender: WWF title**
6. **STING** — *260, Venice Beach, CA* — **No. 3 contender: NWA title**
7. **BARRY WINDHAM** — *236, Sweetwater, TX* — **U.S. heavyweight champion**
8. **KERRY VON ERICH** — *260, Denton, TX* — **World Class champion**
9. **HULK HOGAN** — *302, Venice Beach, CA* — **No. 3 contender: WWF title**
10. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** — *280, Queens, NY* — **WWF Intercontinental champion**

TAG TEAMS

1. **THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS** — *Combined weight: 453 pounds* — **NWA World tag team champions**
2. **DEMOLITION** — *Combined weight: 585 pounds* — **WWF World tag team champions**
3. **THE ROAD WARRIORS** — *Combined weight: 567 pounds* — **No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title**
4. **WARLORD & BARBARIAN** — *Combined weight: 655 pounds* — **No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title**
5. **THE FANTASTICS** — *Combined weight: 462 pounds* — **No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title**
6. **PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND** — *Combined weight: 456 pounds* — **AWA World tag team champions**
7. **THE BRITISH BULLDOGS** — *Combined weight: 461 pounds* — **No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title**
8. **THE HART FOUNDATION** — *Combined weight: 515 pounds* — **No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title**
9. **THE ROUGEAU BROTHERS** — *Combined weight: 490 pounds* — **No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title**
10. **SHANE DOUGLAS & HUMONGOUS** — *Combined weight: 541 pounds* — **Continental tag team champions**

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**BARRY WINDHAM** *236, Sweetwater, TX*
2—**LEX LUGER** *268, Chicago, IL*
3—**STING** *260, Venice Beach, CA*
4—**DUSTY RHODES** *302, Austin, TX*
5—**STEVE WILLIAMS** *265, Norman, OK*
6—**AL PEREZ** *238, Tampa, FL*
7—**NIKITA KOLOFF** *275, Moscow, Russia*
8—**MIKE ROTUNDO** *245, Syracuse, NY*
9—**RICK MORTON** *228, Memphis, TN*
10—**RICK STEINER** *248, Detroit, MI*

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL

1—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** *280, Queens, NY*
2—**TED DiBIASE** *247, Omaha, NB*
3—**HULK HOGAN** *302, Venice Beach, CA*
4—**ANDRE THE GIANT** *497, Grenoble, France*
5—**THE HONKY TONK MAN** *255, Memphis, TN*
6—**HACKSAW DUGGAN** *280, Glens Falls, NY*
7—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE** *273, San Francisco, CA*
8—**JAKE ROBERTS** *246, Stone Mountain, GA*
9—**RICK RUDE** *246, Robbinsdale, MN*
10—**BAD NEWS BROWN** *280, New York, NY*

AWA

World Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1—**GREG GAGNE** *220, Robbinsdale, MN*
2—**KERRY VON ERICH** *260, Denton, TX*
3—**SOLDAT USTINOV** *265, Moscow, Russia*
4—**WAHOO McDANIEL** *280, Midland, TX*
5—**MANNY FERNANDEZ** *245, El Paso, TX*
6—**COL. DeBEERS** *248, Cape Town, South Africa*
7—**AUSTIN IDOL** *240, Las Vegas, NV*
8—**EDDIE GILBERT** *222, Lexington, TN*
9—**MANDO GUERRERO** *225, Mexico City, Mexico*
10—**TEIJHO KHAN** *265, Singapore*

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX

1—**ICEMAN PARSONS** *245, St. Louis, MO*
2—**JERRY LAWLER** *234, Memphis, TN*
3—**KEVIN VON ERICH** *235, Denton, TX*
4—**KAMALA** *360, Uganda*
5—**ERIC EMBRY** *225, Lexington, KY*
6—**STEVEN CASEY** *230, San Antonio, TX*
7—**BUDDY ROBERTS** *247, Del City, OK*
8—**MICHAEL HAYES** *255, Marietta, GA*
9—**TERRY GORDY** *289, Chattanooga, TN*
10—**THE BEAST** *335, Uganda*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

1. **HULK HOGAN** — *302, Venice Beach, CA* — **Last month: No. 1 Most Popular**
2. **RANDY SAVAGE** — *245, Sarasota, FL* — **Last month: No. 2 Most Popular**
3. **STING** — *260, Venice Beach, CA* — **Last month: No. 3 Most Popular**
4. **LEX LUGER** — *268, Chicago, IL* — **Last month: No. 4 Most Popular**
5. **HACKSAW DUGGAN** — *280, Glens Falls, NY* — **Last month: No. 7 Most Popular**
6. **DUSTY RHODES** — *302, Austin, TX* — **Last month: No. 5 Most Popular**
7. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** — *280, Queens, NY* — **Last month: No. 10 Most Popular**
8. **JERRY LAWLER** — *234, Memphis, TN* — **Last month: No. 8 Most Popular**
9. **JAKE ROBERTS** — *246, Stone Mountain, GA* — **Last month: No. 6 Most Popular**
10. **KERRY VON ERICH** — *260, Denton, TX* — **Last month: No. 9 Most Popular**

MOST HATED

1. **ANDRE THE GIANT** — *497, Grenoble, France* — **Last month: No. 1 Most Hated**
2. **RIC FLAIR** — *243, Minneapolis, MN* — **Last month: No. 2 Most Hated**
3. **BARRY WINDHAM** — *236, Sweetwater, TX* — **Last month: No. 4 Most Hated**
4. **TED DiBIASE** — *247, Omaha, NB* — **Last month: No. 3 Most Hated**
5. **RICK RUDE** — *246, Robbinsdale, MN* — **Last month: No. 5 Most Hated**
6. **EDDIE GILBERT** — *222, Lexington, TN* — **Last month: No. 7 Most Hated**
7. **THE HONKY TONK MAN** — *255, Memphis, TN* — **Last month: No. 6 Most Hated**
8. **KEVIN SULLIVAN** — *252, Boston, MA* — **Last month: unrated**
9. **RON BASS** — *285, Pampa, TX* — **Last month: unrated**
10. **KAMALA** — *360, Uganda* — **Last month: unrated**

For period ended September 15, 1988

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RIC FLAIR ..... 96 points
2—RANDY SAVAGE ..... 76 points
3—LEX LUGER ..... 54 points
4—HULK HOGAN ..... 44 points
5—JERRY LAWLER ..... 43 points

TAG TEAMS

1—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ... 83 points
2—THE ROAD WARRIORS ..... 79 points
3—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS ..... 72 points
4—DEMOLITION ..... 55 points
5—RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA ..... 38 points

STAMPEDE

orth American Champion:
AKHAN SINGH
0, Saginaw, MI

1—**JOHNNY SMITH** — *235, Manchester, England*
2—**STEVE DiSALVO** — *298, Boston, MA*
3—**BRUCE HART** — *211, Calgary, Alberta*
4—**CHRIS BENOIT** — *218, Edmonton, Alberta*
5—**STEVE BLACKMAN** — *250, Pittsburgh, PA*
6—**VULKAN SINGH** — *300, Billings, MT*
7—**LANCE IDOL** — *225, Hollywood, CA*
—**GAMA SINGH** — *220, Karachi, Pakistan*
—**JERRY MORROW** — *235, Martinique*
—**GOLDIE ROGERS** — *223, Hollywood, CA*

CWA

CWA Champion:
PHIL HICKERSON
257, Jackson, TN

1—**BRICKHOUSE BROWN** — *225, Winter Haven, FL*
2—**SCOTT STEINER** — *235, Detroit, MI*
3—**ROBERT FULLER** — *238, Dyresburg, TN*
4—**JEFF JARRETT** — *200, Hendersonville, TN*
5—**JIMMY VALIANT** — *251, New York, NY*
6—**TOMMY RICH** — *248, Hendersonville, TN*
7—**GARY YOUNG** — *240, Houston, TX*
8—**JIMMY GOLDEN** — *235, Montgomery, AL*
9—**BUDDY LANDELL** — *236, Los Angeles, CA*
10—**BILLY TRAVIS** — *218, Houston, TX*

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TITLE VACANT
To be filled in elimination tourney

1—**EDDIE GILBERT** — *222, Lexington, TN*
2—**AUSTIN IDOL** — *240, Las Vegas, NV*
3—**WILLIE B. HERT** — *238, El Paso, TX*
4—**LORD HUMONGOUS** — *325, parts unknown*
5—**KEN WAYNE** — *208, Memphis, TN*
6—**DAN DAVIS** — *238, Nashvill*
7—**JERRY STUBBS** — *242, Pensacola, FL*
8—**SHANE DOUGLAS** — *223, Pittsburgh, PA*
9—**TONY ANTHONY** — *235, Bucksnorth, TN*
10—**TOM PRICHARD** — *220, Houston, TX*

WWC

WWC Champion:
TITLE VACANT
To be filled in upcoming tourney

1—**HERCULES AYALA** — *273, Bayamon, Puerto Rico*
2—**CARLOS COLON** — *246, Santa Isabel, PR*
3—**RICKY SANTANA** — *235, Orlando, FL*
4—**MIGUEL PEREZ JR.** — *232, Carolena, PR*
5—**BUDDY LANDELL** — *236, Los Angeles, CA*
6—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER** — *360, Khartoum, Sudan*
7—**TNT** — *242, parts unknown*
8—**KAMALA** — *360, Uganda*
9—**DUTCH MANTEL** — *224, Oil Trough, TX*
10—**DAN SPIVEY** — *300, Tampa, FL*

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

A new number one! Fresh off their September 10 victory over **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson** for the NWA World tag team title, **The Midnight Express** has taken over the top spot in our tag team ratings. At press time, the Midnights also held the U.S. tag belts, but they'll be forced to give up that title because of NWA guidelines, which prohibit a team from holding both belts at the same time. Tully and Arn signed a contract with the WWF shortly after losing the belts and were not scheduled to wrestle again until their October 5 WWF debut; thus, they were dropped from the ratings. WWF World tag team champions **Demolition** remain at number two because the ratings committee felt they have not shown the dominance and all-around ability necessary to be number one. They win most of their matches because of manager **Mr. Fuji's** outside interference and other illegal methods.

Mr. Fuji

A quick note! For all you fans who are racking your brains and checking your old programs, don't rush to send us mail questioning our sanity! This month, we've ranked both World Class heavyweight champion **Kerry Von Erich** and AWA World champion **Jerry Lawler** in the World Class *and* AWA ratings. The special consideration is being given to these men while they continue their series of title vs. title matches. Kerry is rated second below AWA TV champion **Greg Gagne**, and Lawler is rated second below World Class Texas champ **Iceman Parsons.**

Some people want to fill the world with silly ratings. Back in the October 1988 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling,* we asked you to send in your ratings in any number of offbeat categories. Well, as in 1986 when we ran this feature for the first time, your response was overwhelming. "Ratings Analysis" mail has picked up considerably, and most of those letters include a silly ratings category.

Here are some samples of your categories and ratings:

A top 10 list furnished by Chad Cames of Mason, Ohio, certainly sets the tone for the inherent silliness of this column. His list is a **Top 10 Most Likely Main Events at WrestleMania V:** 1—Roger Ebert vs. Gene Siskel; 2—Tammy Bakker vs. Jessica Hahn; 3—The Brady Bunch vs. The Partridge Family; 4—Mickey Mouse & Donald Duck vs. Mighty Mouse & Daffy Duck; 5—Lassie vs. Rin Tin Tin in a dog collar chain match; 6—Sean Penn vs. reporters; 7—Garfield vs. Heathcliff; 8—The Three Stooges vs. The Four Horsemen; 9—The Honky Tonk Man vs. Elvis (if either is alive); 10—George Bush vs. Mike Dukakis.

Keith Mullins of Moore, Oklahoma, is quite a weight-watcher, judging from his top 10 list of the **Most Overweight Wrestlers:** 1—Haystacks Calhoun (660 pounds); 2—Andre the Giant (497); 3—One Man Gang (468); 4—Makhan Singh (380); 5—Bam Bam Bigelow (368); 6—Big John Studd (364); 7—Kamala (360); 8—Abdullah the Butcher (360); 9—Max Pain (350); 10—Bubba Rogers (348).

Animal

A true NWA fan, Gary Kosnoff, wrote in with **The 10 Stupidest Things In The WWF:** 1—Brother Love; 2—The Megapowers; 3—The Megapowers' Handshake; 4—George "The Animal" Steele; 5—The Honky Tonk Man; 6—The Big Bossman; 7—Koko B. Ware; 8—The Million Dollar Man; 9—Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake; 10—Bad News Brown.

Lori LeMaster of Bellevue, Ohio, certainly has an interest in painting. Her medium is not the canvas, but the faces of her favorite grapplers. Here's her list of **The Top 10 Painted Faces in Wrestling:** 1—Road Warrior Animal; 2—Sting; 3—Road Warrior Hawk; 4—Ultimate Warrior; 5—Kamala; 6—Warlord; 7—Barbarian; 8—Demolition Smash; 9—Kendo Nagasaki; 10—Demolition Ax. She also added an interesting list of **Wrestling's Top 10 Snobs:** 1—Curt Hennig; 2—Ric Flair; 3—Missy Hyatt; 4—Tully Blanchard; 5—Diamond Doll; 6—Rick Rude; 7—Ted DiBiase; 8—Adrian Street; 9—Debbie Combs; 10—Dino Bravo.

Our last silly list of this issue was furnished by Michael Yates of Rochester, New York, who sent us a list of **The 10 Worst Finishing Maneuvers:** 1—The Rude Awakening (Rick Rude); 2—The piledriver (Don Muraco); 3—The claw (Barry Windham); 4—The Russian sickle (Nikita Koloff); 5—Demolition Drop (Demolition); 6—*Le Bombe de Rougeaux* (The Rougeaus); 7—Flying forearm smash (Tito Santana); 8—The bulldog (Sam Houston); 9—Slingshot suplex (Tully Blanchard); 10—Camel clutch (Iron Sheik).

Back to Puerto Rico. For the third time since its inception, "Ratings Analysis" this month takes a look at the World Wrestling Council, based in Puerto Rico. The WWC heavyweight title, previously held by **Hercules Ayala**, was declared vacant when Ayala attacked **Carlos Colon's** wife at a WWC awards dinner.

That's all, folks! But keep those cards and letters coming, and don't forget to keep sending in your silly ratings categories. The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *Sports Review Wrestling;* Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. □

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